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POLL RESULTS

How big an impact is the closing of Hollywood Theaters on the quality of life on the islands?

Very significant-**89**

significant-**26**

insignificant-**22**

Sunday April 27, 2008

INSIDE



Marines Return

U.S. Marines are crossing the sands of southern Afghanistan for the first time in years, providing a boost to a NATO coalition that is growing but still short on manpower.

Asia ...Page 16



Winehouse Warned

Amy Winehouse left a London police station Saturday after questioning about reports that she scuffled with two men during a raucous night out. She received a formal police caution for assault.

Life & Style ... Page 21

Norita happy with administration, Legislature's support. **PAGE 2**

Wiseman finds lawful Scholarship Board's methodology. **PAGE 8**

House cuts govt's Fund contribution

By AGNES E. DONATO
agnes_donato@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

RELATED NEWS

Fund's DC plan now has 500 members.
PAGE 3

The House of Representatives passed on Friday a bill reducing the government contribution rate to the NMI Retirement Fund from 18 percent to 11 percent.

See **HOUSE** on Page 4

'Govendo has a pattern of changing his orders'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth Govendo has a pattern of changing his ruling on the bench without conducting

a hearing, according to attorney Antonio M. Atalig.

Atalig said in the first order he issued on the bench Govendo ordered him and attorney Reynaldo O. Yana to spend 30

See **GOVENDO** on Page 4

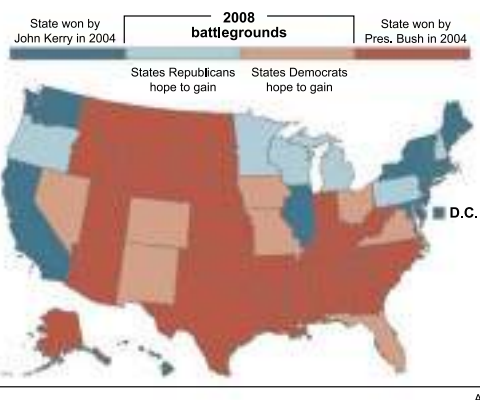
Electoral map favors a Democrat, has John McCain playing defense

By LIZ SIDOTI
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

Road to the White House

Fourteen states will be battlegrounds for the Democratic candidate and Sen. John McCain in the race for 270 electoral votes in November.

Popular vote, Democrat/Republican, 2004 results



WASHINGTON (AP)—The electoral road to the White House favors Democrats this fall—either Barack Obama or Hillary Rodham Clinton—and has Republican John McCain playing defense to thwart a presidential power shift.

A downtrodden economy, the war in Iraq and a public call for change have created an Electoral College outlook and a political environment filled

See **ELECTORAL** on Page 4



Thousands take part in 27th Annual Flame Tree Festival

By RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN
rianne_pangelinan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Thousands of people flocked to the Civic Center the past four days to take part in one of the CNMI's most celebrated cultural events—the 27th Annual Flame Tree Festival.

Commonwealth Council for Arts and Culture executive director Cecilia T.

See **THOUSANDS** on Page 4

Clad in a traditional Chamorro attire brothers Joe and Rey Blas Viloria and Mike Palomo from the Guam delegation stand on the shoreline during sunset as they hold their spears before blowing the Ku'lu, or the signal horn, in celebration of the 27th Annual Flame Tree Arts Festival last Saturday in Susupe. See **photo gallery** on Pages 18 and 19

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Local

Norita happy with administration, Legislature's support

Department of Public Safety Commissioner Claudio Norita said he is very happy with the

support given him by the administration and the Legislature. Norita said being sworn in as

commissioner was the final step in the process of him officially becoming the DPS chief.

In an interview with *Saipan Tribune* shortly after he was sworn in as DPSC commissioner by associate justice Alexandro Castro Friday morning, Norita said he had already instituted plans of work for the department.

The new commissioner said the Senate's confirmation has re-affirmed the Fitial administration's and the Legislature's support to him and DPS.

"They're supporting me in the plans that we need to do at DPS," Norita said.

Acting Gov. Timothy Villagomez said Norita as a retired law enforcer knows what to do at DPS, what needs to be done,



Norita

and know how it gets done.

"The only advice that I can

give him or suggest him is I'm always here to back up his plans," Villagomez said.

The acting governor said the new commissioner opted to have his swearing in Friday or the time where there were five proclamations have been dedicated for the law enforcement of the CNMI.

"I think that was really a nice gesture in his part to have his swearing in to coincide with the proclamation signings.

It's a family event. He wanted to make sure that every member of law enforcement not only DPS but other divisions in law enforcement are present today," he said. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*

Norita taps lady cop as new Crime Stoppers coordinator

Department of Public Safety Commissioner Claudio Norita has appointed a new coordinator for NMI Crime Stoppers Program.

Norita tapped Police Officer 2 Trishia Seman, who is currently assigned at DPS Sexual Offender's Registry and Public Relations Office, as the new Crime Stoppers coordinator.

"I'm excited. It's going pretty good," said Seman in an interview with *Saipan Tribune*.

Seman said DPS and the Crime Stoppers Program are hoping she will be able to help them reach out the community more to get people be involved and helped out the Crime Stoppers.

Crime Stoppers Board chair Jim Arenovski said he is very excited to have Seman as the new coordinator as the position is very important for the law enforcement and community.

Arenovski said he has known Seman for a long time and that he is aware of her excellent record with the Junior police program, drug abuse resistance, and other projects

involving students.

"She is an excellent representative for Crime Stoppers. We are very excited to have her in our team," the board chair said.

When Police Officer 1 Tony Diaz resigned as police officer and as Crime Stoppers coordinator in November 2007, DPS did not appoint a permanent Crime Stoppers coordinator. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*

Tax amnesty bill introduced

By AGNES E. DONATO
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REPORTER

A new tax amnesty has been proposed in the House of Representatives.

Rep. Oscar M. Babauta introduced late last week a bill allowing delinquent taxpayers to settle their obligations without penalty and interest during a 120-day amnesty period.

The bill contains similar provisions as the tax amnesty programs implemented in 2001 and in 2005.

Babauta stated in this bill that, for various reasons, not all eligible taxpayers took advantage of the 2005 tax amnesty program. "Many delinquent taxpayers would welcome a second opportunity to pay their taxes under an amnesty law," he added.

Babauta also said that an amnesty period "is still the most cost effective way for the government to collect tax revenue during this difficult times."

There is no word on how much taxes could be collected under an amnesty program.

The new tax amnesty would apply to all taxes for all tax years prior to 2004, including taxes on wages, salary or earnings; gross revenue; room, bar, and jackpot taxes; and excise taxes. The law allows delinquent taxpayers to settle

unpaid taxes by filing special returns with the government.

But it would not apply to those who are party in a civil or criminal tax action, or anyone who has not fully paid a civil or criminal judgment against them.

The bill would mandate the Department of Finance to make special returns available within 15 days. A taxpayer would not have to pay penalties and interest charges as long as they file the special return properly and pay the tax owed.

The bill would empower the government to collect on penalties and interests that would be forgiven during the tax amnesty period if the taxpayer fails to file a return or pay a tax due for two or more consecutive periods and has failed to timely contest the liability in an administrative or judicial proceeding.

Other instances that may effectively nullify the waiver of penalties and interests include the filing of returns or payment of taxes six months or more late from the due date, if concerned taxpayers fail to timely contest the liabilities.

The bill also provides that waived penalties and interests may be reassessed on those who will pay their taxes in installments if they default on its payment.

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DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC LANDS PUBLIC NOTICE

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC LANDS (DPL) IS APPLYING FOR CLEANUP GRANT FOR UNEXPLODED ORDNANCE (UXO) FROM THE U.S. EPA BROWNFIELDS PROGRAM

The Department of Public Lands (DPL) announces its intention to apply for a federal grant through the U.S. Environmental protection Agency's Brownfields cleanup grants. The main purpose of DPL's grant application is to conduct cleanup of the Marpi Point Village Homestead Site, which is known to be contaminated with unexploded ordnances from WWII.

For more information, go to the EPA Brownfields website:

<http://www.epa.gov/brownfields>; or DPL website: www.dpl.gov.mp.

Fund's DC plan now has 500 members

By AGNES E. DONATO
agnes_donato@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The NMI Retirement Fund's defined contribution plan now has 500 members, including about 400 new hires.

Juan T. Guerrero, chairman of the Fund board of trustees, reported Friday that 126 government employees had converted from the defined benefit plan to the new DC program.

In addition, about 400 new employees have automatically enrolled in the DC plan upon being hired.

The DC plan opened for enrollment on July 25, 2007. Eligible employees have until July 25, 2008, to convert their DB account.

A defined benefit member may convert to the DC plan if he

or she has less than 10 years of credited service with the CNMI government. Once an employee has become 10 years vested with the government, he or she is no longer considered an eligible employee who can convert.



Guerrero

The government expects to save a substantial amount if eligible employees opt for the defined contributin plan. The new plan increases the employee's share to 10 percent, while reducing government's employer contribution to 4 percent.

Under the defined benefit plan, Class I members pay at a rate of 6.5 percent and Class II members-or older members-pay 9 percent of their compensation. The government's contribution rate for the DB plan is currently at 37.4 percent.

The contribution plan offers members an option to directly manage their own contributions.

There are approximately 3,000 members who are eligible to transfer to the DC plan.

Under the regulations, conversion by a married member will not take effect unless approved by the spouse.

The amount that will be transferred is a combination of the member's previous contributions into the benefit plan, the amount of regular interest fixed by the Fund board of trustees, and whatever amount is legislatively appropriated for the transferring member.

The Retirement Fund has approved a conversion incentive, granting transferees 7.5 percent, rather than the original rate of 3.5 percent, compounded interest on their total contribution.

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Saipan, MP 96950



NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING ON AN APPLICATION FOR A QUALIFYING CERTIFICATE AUTHORIZING THE ABATEMENT AND REBATE OF CERTAIN CNMI TAXES

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that:

A. Public hearing. In accordance with the Investment Incentive Act of 2000, as amended, and pursuant to the rule-making procedures of the Administrative Procedures Act, the Commonwealth Development Authority (CDA) will conduct a public hearing at the Governor Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center, Susupe, Saipan, on Tuesday, April 29, 2008, at 10:00 a.m. on the application of Saipan Laulau Development, Inc. d.b.a. Laolao Bay Golf Resort, Applicant, for a Qualifying Certificate, which request is for tax relief by way of abatement and rebate of CNMI taxes in consideration of Applicant's proposed construction and operation of a golfel facility, including the renovation of its existing 36-hole golf course, all pursuant to the Investment Incentive Act of 2000, as amended, and as set out in the Applicant's application for a Qualifying Certificate.

B. Nature of hearing. This hearing shall be open to the public. Oral or written statements will be received from anyone wishing to testify thereat, which statement will be incorporated into the records of the hearing.

C. Further information. For further information, please contact CDA's Acting Chief Executive Officer at 234-7145/7146/6293/6245, or at the CDA office at Wakin's Building, Gualo Rai, Saipan.

/s/ Oscar C. Camacho
Acting Chief Executive Officer



COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

P.O. Box 502149, Saipan MP 96950

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REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS SUNSET VILLA BEACH COTTAGES

The Commonwealth Development Authority (CDA) is soliciting proposals for the sale of the **SUNSET VILLA BEACH COTTAGES Lot No. 105 R 01, located in Sonton Rota**. The property spans 6,422 square meters and contains 14 unit rooms of 6 cottages, 4 deluxe and 4 super deluxe rooms all with ocean view.

The sale shall be subject to the following terms and conditions:

1. Minimum bid - \$750,000.00.
2. Sale will be granted to the highest and or best offer.
3. Sunset Villa is being sold at its current condition, **"AS IS"**.
4. Sunset Villa is being sold **"WITHOUT WARRANTY"** of any type.
5. CDA reserves the right to reject any and all proposals and to withdraw this notice and postpone the sale from time to time.

Interested party or person may contact Oscar Camacho, Acting Chief Executive Officer (ACEO) at 234-6245 for further information and Nanette Atalig, at 532-9408 to inspect the property. Failure to inspect the property will not constitute grounds for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any buyer. All sales are final.

All proposals received will be opened at 4:00 p.m. on May 14, 2008 with the winner to be announced at a later date. Upon award, offerer is required to make a non-refundable deposit of 10% of the total price offer. Payment must be made by cash, cashier's check or credit card.

Interested party or person is asked to submit their proposal at the CDA Saipan Office in a sealed envelop identified as "Sunset Villa Proposal" to Mr. Oscar C. Camacho, ACEO. Deadline to submit bid is **4:00 p.m. Monday, May 14, 2008**.

Dated this 14th day of April, 2008.

COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

/s/ Oscar C. Camacho
Acting Chief Executive Officer

ELECTORAL

From Page 1

with extraordinary opportunity for the Democrats and enormous challenge for the GOP nominee-in-waiting.

Both parties count on victory in dozens of states that long have voted their way. The competition to reach the 270 electoral votes needed to win is expected to play out primarily in 14 states. All but one saw the greatest action in 2004. The exception is Virginia, a longtime Republican stronghold where Democrats have made inroads.

Eight of the states went for President Bush four years ago, including the crown jewels Ohio and Florida. Six, including big-prize Pennsylvania, voted for Democrat John Kerry. In the battlegrounds, far more electoral votes, 97, are up for grabs for Democrats than the 69 available for McCain to go after. Twice as many of the closest states—decided by 2 or fewer percentage points—voted Republican in 2004; they include New Mexico and Iowa, which the GOP won by 1 point.

Both sides argue that their candidates can expand the playing field by making more states competitive than in previous elections. But they likely

will only spend time and money to test that theory once they feel confident about higher priority states.

“This is going to be a tough campaign. I have no illusions how hard we have to work to win,” McCain says, a sobering assessment of a Republican’s chances when most voters say the country is on the wrong track under a GOP president.

Conversely, Democrats exude confidence that Nov. 4 will break their way—even as they continue their nomination slugfest.

“I have every reason to believe we’re going to have a Democratic president,” Clinton argues. Obama declares: “We will beat John McCain in November. You can take that to the bank!”

Recent polls, however, show McCain competing strongly with both Clinton and Obama in hypothetical matchups, and Republicans and Democrats envision a close race.

In 2004, Bush won 286 electoral votes to 251 for Kerry. This year’s Democratic nominee must triumph in all the states Kerry won, and pick up 19 more votes to prevail - or come up with another game plan to reach the magic number. McCain, for his part, must fend off Democratic challenges to hang on to the GOP advantage.

DEMOCRATIC

THOUSANDS

From Page 1

Celis said what drew in the most of the crowd is the different kinds of cultures showcased at the event.

“We had all sorts of people. We even saw some new faces. I feel this year’s event was more successful than last year’s and it’s because it had a lot to do with the different kinds of cultures; it had nothing to do with the bad economy,” Celis said.

More than 30 artists and performers from Saipan and neighboring islands showcased their talents and skills.

Performers included the Inatuas Cultural Dancers, Lo’ngo’wo’fisch Dancers, the Palau kids, Uncle Ben’s Music and Dance Studio, Rota Skoobz, Taga Dancers, Kulon Natibu, Ace Elameto, Tinian Roots Crew, Tinian Taga Dancers, Saipan Youth Ukulele, Penina Ole Vasa, CNMI Inatuas, Flame Tree Angels, Fallun Dafa, Alana’ai Polynesian Music & Dance Production, Olomway

Band, 3+1 Espeleta, Larry & Kaliko, and a whole heap of others.

Acting Gov. Tim P. Villagomez welcomed the visiting delegations, which included Rota, Tinian, Republic of Palau, and the Republic of Marshall Islands.

“You are the *finadene*—you are the soy sauce seasoning—that makes the Flame Tree Arts Festival just right every year,” Villagomez addressed the visiting delegations

He added, “This year, we are exceptionally proud to showcase some of the indigenous Chamorro and Carolinian art forms and crafts through the Arts in Education workshops and the masterpiece canoe project. I congratulate the Arts Council and Festival Organizing Committee on bringing this traditional knowledge and art skill into a public arena here at the Flame Tree.”

Along with this year’s non-stop performances, the celebration included over 50 art booths and 20 food vendors. Another addition to this year’s festival

OPPORTUNITIES:

Of the 14 battlegrounds, Bush won eight with 97 electoral votes. Half of those states were decided by only 1 or 2 percentage points, and all were under 10 points. Five have Democratic governors this year. Electoral votes are in parentheses.

Three Western states—Colorado (9), Nevada (5) and New Mexico (5)—appear obvious targets for Democrats given their gains in the region, sharp population growth and large numbers of swing-voting Hispanics. But McCain, a four-term senator from Arizona, does well among those voters, too; his Senate support for an eventual path to citizenship for illegal immigrants could help.

To the east, Iowa (7) holds promise for the Democrats; Republicans narrowly put it into their column in 2004 after years of Democratic dominance. Both Obama and Clinton competed here during the primary. McCain’s opposition to ethanol subsidies complicate his chances, nor is he a favorite of evangelicals. Though less likely to change hands, Missouri (11) is a perennial battleground.

McCain also must defend the two vote-rich prizes that decided the past two elections.

Ohio (20), a bellwether that tipped the race to Bush in 2004, may be poised for a switch, with a rash of job

losses, high numbers of Iraq casualties and a series of Republican statewide political defeats in 2006, including the governor.

Florida (27), which put Bush in the White House in 2000 and voted for him again in 2004, will certainly be hard-fought, given its electoral treasure chest. Its demographics are tilting more Republican, though, and Obama has fared poorly in the primaries among Jewish and Hispanic voters. Clinton may have a better shot.

Virginia (13) is a case where Obama, who is black, might play stronger than Clinton because of the state’s large black population. The state moves into the competitive category given Democratic gains fueled by the growing Washington suburbs. Virginia also is home to large communities of military veterans who may have an affinity for McCain, a former Navy pilot who spent more than five years as a prisoner of war in Vietnam.

REPUBLICAN OPPORTUNITIES:

Kerry won six of the hard-fought states offering 69 electoral votes that McCain will try to put in the GOP column. All of those were decided by under 5 percentage points. Most have Democratic governors as well as long histories as swing states.

Franklin Ada also made his cameo at this year’s event. He said he was impressed with the CNMI’s hosting of cultural promotion and demonstrations.

The Flame Tree Arts Festival is Micronesia’s largest annual arts and culture celebration, featuring traditional and contemporary visual, performing and culinary arts from the region and beyond.

According to Celes, it serves as an opportunity for people to feature their culture. Celes said that even with the economic downturn, it’s really about culture and togetherness that will draw a huge crowd.

“I think that deep in the hearts of everybody, culture is very important. When it comes to culture, everybody’s on the same page,” Celes said.

She said that this year’s Flame Tree organizers would like to thank their major sponsors, “Without them, this year’s celebration would not have been successfully put together. We’d like to especially thank the huge crowd for

In the upper Midwest, Minnesota (10) has a quirky independent streak that presents an opening for McCain. It also has a Republican governor and will host the GOP’s national convention. Wisconsin (10) and Michigan (17) have high numbers of Reagan Democrats that McCain could attract. But voters in all three states are reeling from economic woes, and that works in the Democrats’ favor.

New Hampshire (4) fell to Kerry by a razor-thin margin four years ago and, Democrats captured two House seats two years later. But McCain has a close bond with the state that made him in his first presidential primary in 2000, and saved him this year.

It’s been 20 years since Pennsylvania (21) voted Republican. Further complicating McCain’s chances: The state’s economy is bad and many Pennsylvanians have died in Iraq, the war he staunchly supports. Still, conservative swaths that are home to right-leaning Democrats could give McCain an opening. As usual, the Philadelphia suburbs figure to be pivotal.

Oregon (7) has become more competitive in recent elections, but Democrats have won it in each of the last five. McCain hopes his moderate image and support for curbing climate change will tip the state to Republicans.

coming down and supporting our vendors and visiting the booths.”

Villagomez said he and Gov. Benigno R. Fitial would like to extend their appreciation to all those who have come together to bring the community the 27th Annual Flame Tree Arts Festival.

“A special thanks to our private sector sponsors and volunteers for coming alongside and helping us make this year’s festival possible. A job well done to our government agencies. Despite the economic challenges we face, it is obvious that arts and culture are still in our hearts and are still a uniting force among not only the people of our island, but our brothers and sisters of Micronesia and beyond.

“I congratulate the Arts Council and Festival Organizing Committee on bringing this traditional knowledge and art skill into a public arena here at the Flame Tree. Let us all be proud of our inheritance, wherever we are from, and let us pass it to the next generation,” Villagomez added.

GOVENDO

From Page 1

days in jail for civil contempt.

“Later on he (Govendo) changed it. We’re beginning to realize that this judge loves to change his orders he issued on the bench,” said Atalig after Friday’s hearing when police re-arrested him and Yana.

Atalig said Govendo has a pattern of changing his oral order through a writ-

ten decision.

“He is known for issuing orders on the bench, and then issuing a different order in writing,” he pointed out.

On their re-arrest, Atalig said it is not their fault, but “the systems’ mistake.”

He said he and Yana were expecting for their re-arrest so they were just waiting for the police at their respective houses last Friday.

“This is not the justice that I am thinking,” Atalig stressed.

Yana refused to comment.

On Friday afternoon police re-arrested the two lawyers after they were “wrongfully released” by the Department of Corrections Thursday morning.

Police picked up Yana and Atalig after Govendo issued that day a bench warrant for their arrest.

Govendo issued the warrant after learning that, after he remanded the two lawyers into custody Thursday morning, DOC immediately released them.

Govendo imposed a \$1.3 million bail each for the lawyers’ release.

After their arrest, Yana and Atalig were brought before associate judge David Wiseman for a bail hearing Friday afternoon.

At the hearing, Yana explained that by April 24 (Thursday) they were already in detention for 30 days.

Wiseman read Govendo’s order issued last Thursday that clearly stated the order set no fixed jail term and remanded them to DOC.

Wiseman said the two were wrongfully released by DOC. He remanded the two to jail.

On March 28, Govendo issued the contempt order and ordered Yana and Atalig to be imprisoned until they disgorged the \$1.3 million that they received in the Angel Malite estate probate.

During Thursday’s review hearing, Govendo threw the two lawyers back to jail for their continued failure to return the money.

HOUSE

From Page 1

The bill was approved by an overwhelming majority, with only Rep. Tina Sablan voting against it.

Earlier that day, the Legislature received a presentation from the Fund’s actuarial consultant, who said the government must contribute 37.39 percent of its total payroll to keep the pension

program from going under.

As of Oct. 1, 2006, the Retirement Fund had unfunded liabilities of \$514.46 million. This is because Fund only had assets of \$472.7 million, while having accrued liability of \$987.15 million.

Fund administrator Mark Aguon said that while the pension agency is against any contribution rate that is less than what is actuarially recommended, 11 percent “is something—it’s better than the zero

percent that we are getting now.”

The central government has not paid contributions to the Fund since 2006.

Under the bill, half of the savings from the reduced contribution rate would go to the fuel expenses of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. Funds would also be provided to the Public Utilities Commission for its start up costs and operating expenses for the current fiscal year. The governor may reprogram the balance.

The bill, cosponsored by Speaker Arnold I. Palacios and Rep. Heinz Hofschneider, also would grant the governor unlimited power to reprogram lapsed funds to cover the budget shortfall.

It would double government fees for driver’s license, vehicle registration, firearms license, fingerprinting, police report, safety stickers, copies of any public records from the Department of Public Safety, and marriage license.

Further, some \$2.15 million in ear-

marked non-general fund revenue would be appropriated to CUC for its fuel payments.

CUC would be allowed to use up to 50 percent of the security deposit paid by residential customers, again so the utility can buy fuel. But CUC must return the security deposit funds within three years.

Rep. Ray N. Yumul said there is about \$4.7 million in CUC’s security deposit account.



**COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARING**

Second Floor Afetña Square Building, San Antonio, P.O. Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone no. (670) 236-0956/0957 Facsimile no. (670) 236-0995



**NOTICE OF HEARINGS
PENDING DENIAL APPEALS
FOR MAY 01, 2008; MAY 02, 2008; MAY 08, 2008; AND MAY 09, 2008**

Notice is hereby given to the persons listed below to appear at the Hearing Office, Department of Labor, Second Floor, Afetña Square Building, San Antonio, on the date and at the time listed below. Please bring any documentation necessary to resolve the issues that led to the denial of your permit application. If you fail to appear or fail to bring required documentation, the appeal may be dismissed and an administrative order may be entered against you. Any employee who intends to request permission to transfer to a new employer must appear at the hearing to make that request; failure to appear may result in immediate denial of transfer relief.

Case No.	Employee	Employer	Hearing Date	Time
DC 08-326	Wen, Huazi	A L L Corporation	May 1, 2008	1:00 p.m.
DC 08-285	Muel, Elbert G.	Ahn Corporation	May 2, 2008	9:00 a.m.
DC 08-295	Zhi, Liping	Angel Development Ent., Inc.	May 2, 2008	1:00 p.m.
DC 08-169	Li, Jing Lan	Arianne Corporation	May 8, 2008	10:00 a.m.
DC 07-499	Genez, Elizabeth A.	Asia Pacific Overseas Inc.	May 8, 2008	1:00 p.m.
DC 08-421	Han, Juyeon	B & J Corporation	May 1, 2008	10:00 a.m.
DC 08-329	Domalanta, Lucena M.	Castro, Jesus M.	May 2, 2008	9:00 a.m.
DC 08-149	Salinas, Carlita A.	Castro, Menellia S.	May 8, 2008	1:00 p.m.
DC 08-020	Cano, Reynato C.	CNMI-USA, Int'l. Business & Professional College	May 9, 2008	9:00 a.m.
DC 08-297	Xu, Guorong	Commonwealth Pac Int'l. Inc.	May 2, 2008	9:00 a.m.
DC 08-283	Gurung, Baba	Dasan Corporation	May 2, 2008	9:00 a.m.
DC 08-357	Song, Yuhui	Demapan, Francisco Dlg.	May 1, 2008	1:00 p.m.
DC 08-374	Xuan, Haozhe	Dongbei Saipan, Inc.	May 9, 2008	10:00 a.m.
DC 08-322	Payopay, Olivia B.	EQ Construction Corp.	May 2, 2008	9:00 a.m.
DC 08-335	Pineda, Maurice A.	Expressions, Inc.	May 1, 2008	1:00 p.m.
DC 08-088	Dong, Xukun	Fei Ma Industrial Co., Ltd.	May 9, 2008	9:00 a.m.
DC 08-024	Gumabay, Antonio M.	Fejeran, Benigno T.	May 8, 2008	9:00 a.m.
DC 08-025	Saavedra, Robert R.	Fejeran, Benigno T.	May 8, 2008	9:00 a.m.
DC 08-358	Perez, Elizabeth Dlc.	Food Express Co.	May 1, 2008	1:00 p.m.
DC 08-298	Rivera, Florita A.	Full House, Inc.	May 9, 2008	1:00 p.m.
DC 08-137	Ji, Kangmei	Gintian Corporation	May 9, 2008	10:00 a.m.
DC 08-231	Cortez, Dennis T.	Gum Choun Corporation	May 9, 2008	10:00 a.m.
DC 08-077	Lin, Anshu	Huang Zheng Corp. Ltd.	May 8, 2008	9:00 a.m.
DC 08-360	Ducut, Corazon M.	Isa Ent., Inc.	May 1, 2008	2:00 p.m.
DC 08-288	Quinata, Juan H.	J Lucky Corporation	May 9, 2008	2:00 p.m.
DC 08-054	Nolasco, Myla Dlc.	Jang Dong In	May 9, 2008	9:00 a.m.
DC 08-331	Flores, Ricardo J.	JM Electronics	May 9, 2008	1:00 p.m.
DC 08-370	Gabiana, Dioscora P.	Joon Corporation	May 1, 2008	2:00 p.m.
DC 08-211	Qiu, Lingin	KYS Ent., Inc.	May 8, 2008	10:00 a.m.
DC 08-006	Sheng, Fangjun	Kyung Seung Spn. Inc.	May 8, 2008	2:00 p.m.
DC 07-487	Wang, Yuezhen	Kyung Seung Spn. Inc.	May 8, 2008	2:00 p.m.
DC 08-307	Yu, Hailan	LED Saipan, Inc.	May 2, 2008	10:00 a.m.
DC 08-126	Robediso, Rosemarie S.	Lucky R Corporation	May 9, 2008	10:00 a.m.
DC 08-308	Huang, Xiu Mei	Mei Zhou Inc.	May 9, 2008	2:00 p.m.

Case No.	Employee	Employer	Hearing Date	Time
DC 08-228	Divinagracia, Grace L.	Miller, Rabiab O.	May 9, 2008	1:00 p.m.
DC 08-229	Macalipay, Solomita A.	Miller, Rabiab O.	May 9, 2008	1:00 p.m.
DC 08-290	Su, Yiqun	Mulan Corporaiton	May 9, 2008	2:00 p.m.
DC 08-279	Bartolo, Arthur I.	Ortizo, Nero S.	May 2, 2008	1:00 p.m.
DC 08-274	Hebres, Jennifer H.	Ortizo, Nero S.	May 2, 2008	1:00 p.m.
DC 08-278	Redimo, Ariel N.	Ortizo, Nero S.	May 2, 2008	1:00 p.m.
DC 08-204	Martin, Juliet D.	Pagalranganbay, Josephine S.	May 8, 2008	1:00 p.m.
DC 08-166	Paracale, Rosal R.	Paracale, Stanley Val R.	May 2, 2008	1:00 p.m.
DC 08-286	Hubalde, Arvin I.	PBL Corporation	May 1, 2008	2:00 p.m.
DC 08-300	Tenorio, Teresita P.	Pico, Fortunato	May 1, 2008	9:00 a.m.
DC 08-400	Nartea, Reynaldo S.	RGC Corporation	May 2, 2008	10:00 a.m.
DC 08-158	Entendez, Romeo, Jr. L.	Roberto, Juan B.	May 8, 2008	10:00 a.m.
DC 08-031	Dameg, Basilisa O.	Sablan, Adrian P. & Marietta O.	May 8, 2008	9:00 a.m.
DC 08-369	Arellano, Ma. Loreta M.	Saipan Sea Ventures Inc.	May 1, 2008	9:00 a.m.
DC 08-171	Perez, Miguel C.	Santos, Gloria P.	May 2, 2008	2:00 p.m.
DC 08-356	Montano, Juanito, Jr. C.	Sara Enterprises Inc.	May 1, 2008	2:00 p.m.
DC 08-399	Songcuan, Ronald A.	SBR Enterprises, Inc.	May 2, 2008	10:00 a.m.
DC 08-239	Zhou, Xiaolan	Shining Star Corporation	May 8, 2008	2:00 p.m.
DC 08-333	Formalejo, Dennis B.	SSFM International Inc.	May 1, 2008	9:00 a.m.
DC 08-320	Cortez, Emyln A.	Tababa, Dionesio	May 1, 2008	10:00 a.m.
DC 08-317	Dacuno, Irene Y.	Tababa, Dionesio	May 1, 2008	10:00 a.m.
DC 08-318	Nagpacan, Edwin G.	Tababa, Dionesio	May 1, 2008	10:00 a.m.
DC 08-319	Catbagan, Victoria L.	Tababa, Dionesio M. Jr.	May 1, 2008	10:00 a.m.
DC 08-182	Cruz, Domingo B.	Taitano, Alfred F.	May 8, 2008	2:00 p.m.
DC 08-378	Cai, Zhongming	Tenorio, Esteven	May 1, 2008	9:00 a.m.
DC 08-327	San Agustin, Rosalina M.	Torres, Erlinda C.	May 2, 2008	2:00 p.m.
DC 08-034	Nieves, Daniel P.	Universal Enterprises, Inc.	May 9, 2008	9:00 a.m.
DC 08-397	Rufila, Jesette L.	Venus, Zietzke	May 1, 2008	2:00 p.m.
DC 08-310	Fu, Jiaolong	Wang's Corporation	May 2, 2008	10:00 a.m.
DC 08-361	Garde, Sheryl C.	World Corporation	May 8, 2008	10:00 a.m.
DC 08-334	Xu, Xiaofei	Xing Wang Development Corp.	May 1, 2008	9:00 a.m.
DC 08-301	Hu, Chong Juan	Yong Fu Corporation	May 2, 2008	10:00 a.m.
DC 08-249	Zheng, Wenjian	Yong He Pacific Corp.	May 8, 2008	1:00 p.m.
DC 08-292	Im, Inah	Yong Sang Pacific Corporation	May 9, 2008	2:00 p.m.
DC 08-384	Gu, Junming	Yuki American Corporation	May 1, 2008	1:00 p.m.

FREE CARWASH

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Team PTI and Marianas High School gather for a photo during the group's free carwash fundraising activity at PTI's parking lot in Susupe, Saturday. The group circulated pledge forms before the date of the event requesting for people to donate 10 cents per car that is washed at the activity. The funds from the pledges will go toward the team's donation to this year's Marianas March Against Cancer.



**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**INVITATION TO BID
ITB08-DOF/P&S-048**

“SALE OF GOVERNMENT PERSONAL PROPERTIES”

SUBMISSION DATE: MAY 5, 2008
OPENING DATE: MAY 5, 2008

TIME: 11:00 A.M.
TIME: 1:00 P.M.

Interested individuals or firms may pick-up the specifications at the Office of the Director, Procurement & Supply in Lower Base, Saipan, during regular working hours.

Bidder(s) are cautioned to inspect the property(s).

You are cautioned to bid only on those items you are prepared to pay and remove in accordance with the terms and conditions of this sale.

A bid bond of fifteen percents (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid.

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO. 2008-CDA-03-ITB**

OPENING DATE: Tuesday, April 29, 2008 • TIME: 10:00 a.m.

“OFFICE SPACE FOR CDA TINIAN BRANCH”

COPIES OF THE BID SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED UP AT THE COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY SAIPAN OFFICE, GUALO RAI WAKIN'S BLDG. OR THE CDA OFFICE TINIAN AT THE KING'S BLDG. DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS OR BY FACSIMILE REQUEST TO 235-7147.

PREFERENCE IS AVAILABLE TO U.S. CITIZENS OR PERMANENT RESIDENTS AS PER PL15-95 AND AS FURTHER AMENDED BY PL15-118 AND MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE BID IF PREFERENCE IS CLAIMED.

/s/ OSCAR C. CAMACHO
Acting CEO

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director, P&S

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP08-CRM-055**

SUBMISSION DATE: MAY 13, 2008
TIME: 2:00 P.M.

**“MATERIALS AND SUPPLIES FOR INSTALLATION OF
REEF PINS FOR DIVING MOORINGS FOR
THE COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT OFFICE”**

COPIES OF THE SCOPE OF WORK MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT OFFICE LOCATED ON THE 2ND FLOOR OF THE MORGAN BUILDING ON BEACH ROAD, IN SAN JOSE DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS OR CAN BE RECEIVED ELECTRONICALLY BY CONTACTING THE CRMO MARINE BIOLOGIST, AT (670) 664-8303, OR BY EMAILING john.starmer@crm.gov.mp.

PREFERENCE IS AVAILABLE TO US CITIZENS OR PERMANENT RESIDENTS AS PER PUBLIC LAW 15-95 AND AS FURTHER AMENDED BY PUBLIC LAW 15-118 AND MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE PROPOSAL IF PREFERENCE IS CLAIMED.

/s/ JOHN B. JOYNER, Ph.D.
DIRECTOR, CRMO

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

Douglas F. Cushnie
P.O. Box 500949
Saipan, MP 969590
Telephone: (670) 234-6830
Facsimile: (670) 234-9723
Email: abogados@pticom.com

Attorney for Administratrix

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF) CIVIL CASE
THE ESTATE OF) NO. 08-0124-CV
)
JAMES O. TANAKA,) NOTICE OF
) CREDITORS
Deceased.)
)

Notice is hereby given by the undersigned Clarissa T. Bearden, Administratrix of the Estate of James O. Tanaka, deceased, to the creditors of, and all person having claims against decedent, that within sixty days after the first publication of this notice, creditors of the decedent file their claims with the necessary vouchers in the office of the Clerk of the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands located in Guma Husticia in Susupe, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

DATED this 18th day of April, 2008.

/s/ Clarissa T. Bearden
Administratrix

Douglas F. Cushnie
P.O. Box 500949
Saipan, MP 969590
Telephone: (670) 234-6830
Facsimile: (670) 234-9723
Email: abogados@pticom.com

Attorney for Petitioner

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF) CIVIL CASE
THE ESTATE OF) NO. 08-0124-CV
)
JAMES O. TANAKA,) NOTICE OF
) HEARING
Deceased.)
)

The petition of Clarissa T. Bearden, seeking to be appointed as Administratrix to the Estate of James O. Tanaka, deceased, has been set for hearing before the Commonwealth Superior Court in the Guma Husticia at Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands at 1:30 p.m. on the 3rd day of June, 2008.

Any person who has any objection to this petition may file or her objection with the Commonwealth Superior Court at any time before the hearing, or may appear at the time set for hearing to present such objection or interest in the above-captioned matter.

DATED this 18th day of April, 2008.

BERNADITA A. SABLAN
Clerk of Court

/s/ Deputy Clerk of Court

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT
OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

THE FINANCIAL & : CIVIL
INSURANCE SERVICES : ACTION
GROUP, INC., : NO.
: 07-0053

Plaintiff, :

-v- :

JOSEPH A. ARRIOLA and :
LAURA L. ARRIOLA :

Defendants. :

SUMMONS FOR PUBLICATION

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED
DEFENDANT, LAURA L.
ARRIOLA:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is served upon you hereby, within twenty-one (21) days after the fourth publication of this Summons, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, the Plaintiff's Attorneys, whose address is P.O. Box 5222, Saipan, MP 96950, as soon as practicable after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at Susupe, Saipan. It may be prepared and signed for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to answer in accordance with this Summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

By order of the above court:

/s/ Deputy Clerk of Court

DATED, this 17th day of April, 2008:

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT
OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In the Matter of : CIVIL
the Estate of : ACTION NO.
ESTEBAN RASIAN : 05-0113 D
NOGIS, :

Deceased. :

NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on April 16, 2008, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of the Estate of Esteban Rasiang Nogis in and to the following property: Tract No. 22703-3, containing an area of 1,484 square meters, more or less..

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, May 23, 2008, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 23rd day of April, 2008:

/s/ MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT
OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

NORTHERN : CIVIL
MARIANAS HOUSING : ACTION
CORPORATION, : NO. 07-476

Plaintiff, :

-v- :

The Estate of SOLEDAD K. :
SOMORANG, Deceased, :
and SUSAN K. SOMORANG :

Defendants. :

SUMMONS FOR PUBLICATION

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED
DEFENDANT SUSAN K.
SOMORANG:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is served upon you hereby, within twenty-one (21) days after the fourth publication of this Summons, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, the Plaintiff's Attorneys, whose address is P.O. Box 5222, Saipan, MP 96950, as soon as practicable after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at Susupe, Saipan. It may be prepared and signed for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to answer in accordance with this Summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

By order of the above court:

/s/ Deputy Clerk of Court

DATED, this 18th day of April, 2008:

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT
OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

NORTHERN : CIVIL
MARIANAS HOUSING : ACTION
CORPORATION, : NO. 03-0091 C

Plaintiff, :

-v- :

The Estate of ANTONIO :
LITULUMAR :
TEREGEYO, Deceased, :

Defendants. :

FIRST AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on January 4, 2008, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendant in and to the following property: Lot No. 010 K 270, situated in Dandan, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 859 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 010 K 01, dated August 19, 1987, Commonwealth Recorder's File No. 87-2910, the description therein being incorporated herein by reference.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, May 23, 2008, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 18th day of February, 2008:

/s/ MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

DES students undergo Basic Reading Inventory

By RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN
rianne_pangelinan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

DanDan Elementary School students are currently being assessed through Basic Reading Inventory to determine their progress in reading comprehension and actual school level.

According to DES principal Jonas Barcinas, the students have been showing progress in their reading comprehension and that he is proud with the dedication the teachers and staff are putting into educating each student.

The DES Reading Program and Book Fair is also still ongoing, Barcinas said. “We will be having our Reading Mania Carnival for our students who have read many pages.”

DES is aiming to reach its goal of 200,000 pages read.

Barcinas said the students are encouraged to read on a daily basis and that it has been a huge help in making the students realize the fun and the importance of reading.

Also, DES third grader Naomi Lizama, who was the overall champion for the K-3rd category of this year's Public School System CNMI-Wide Science Fair Competition will be leaving next week for Guam for the Regional Competition.

The whole school all wish her luck at the competition, Barcinas said.

He added that, “As the prin-

icipal of DES, I must admit that our kids are doing very well academically. We are so proud of our students for their hard work and bring home the pride and joy. It sure puts us on the spotlight when our kids shine in any competition.”

DES is also announcing its Teacher Appreciation Week this upcoming May 4-8.

According to Barcinas, the student council, the Parent Teacher Association, and the administration are planning some treats to make the teachers feel special.

Barcinas said the activities for each day include “Monday is apple, fruits, hunk for your teacher. Tuesday is leis, flowers day. Wednesday is appreciation letters and hugs for the teachers. Thursday is Chocolate and candies day. Friday is small fiesta appreciation for them.”

He added that, “Everyday they [teachers] will be treated with breakfast goodies and coffee in the office before they report to their classes. We also plan on putting an appreciation board for them so all the students can write how they feel about the teachers. We will post their pictures on the board as well.”

“DES focuses highly on academics because of the AYP that we are required to meet as a school but we also want our students to be well rounded in each subject. No child is left behind with such opportunity,” Barcinas said.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

NMI Bar examination set

The Northern Mariana Islands Bar Examination (MBA and Essay) will be administered on Wednesday, July 30, 2008 and Thursday, July 31, 2008. All interested applicants shall obtain the application form and necessary information from the Bar Administrator by calling telephone no. (670) 236-9800, visiting the judiciary's website at <http://www.justice.gov.mp>. Or by writing to P.O. Box 502165, Saipan, MP 96950.

All applications and required fees must be submitted to the Bar Administrator no later than May, 30, 2008. **(PR)**

SNISWCD monthly meeting set

The Saipan & Northern Islands Soil and Water Conservation District would like to inform the general public of their monthly meeting S&NISWCD meeting on Tuesday, May 6, 2008, at 1pm at the Natural Resources Conversation Service Office. For more information contact our office at 234-6180. **(PR)**



COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARING
Second Floor, Afetna Square Building, San Antonio, P.O. Box 10007, Saipan MP 96950



NOTICE OF DISMISSAL
LABOR CASES
Monday, April 21, 2008, first notice • Monday, April 28, 2008, second notice

COMPLAINANTS IN THE FOLLOWING LABOR CASES: Each of the labor cases listed below has been dismissed by the Administrative Hearing Office, Department of Labor. In each case, this is a final dismissal with prejudice. All claims, including all claims for money damages, and all claims for eligibility for transfer, have been dismissed. If not previously served, all persons listed in this notice are served with notice of the dismissal as of the date of second publication. A complainant served by means of this publication may obtain a copy of the hearing officer's order from the Administrative Hearing Office. A complainant whose case has been dismissed by the Administrative Hearing Office has fifteen (15) days in which to appeal the order. This publication does not affect any prior service personally or by mail on a complainant, and the time in which to appeal runs from the date of that service.

CASE #	COMPLAINANT (S)	RESPONDENT (S)
LC 07-014	Aiba, Tsuyoshi	Kumanomi dba Café de Colmar
LC 07-214	An, Eun Hee	Oak Corporation
LC 05-061	Anbedor, Renaluz L.	Sako Corporation
LC 07-077	Anuran, Janeth M.	Manglona, Dwight
LC 07-161	Azarcon, Eutemio Jr. D.	Tadeo, Wilson P.
LC 06-005	Bai, Xa Hong	Taitingfong, Roman A.
LC 05-268	Bai, Yu	Winner's Corporation
LC 07-036	Belza, Ione M.	Herman's Modern Bakery
LC 07-278	Bernabe, Carlito E.	Quichocho Security Services
LC 06-173	Bernardo, Solina S.	Bema Corporation
LC 07-321	Brillo, Shirley T.	Camacho Investment Corp.
LC 07-386	Cabiao, Emelyn F.	Pacific Island Creation, Inc.
LC 05-104	Chai, Bing Xiu	L and T Int'l. Corp.
LC 07-316	Chen, Hui Zhu	Poong In, Inc.
LC 05-148	Chen, Jinkun	United Int'l Corp.
LC 07-384	Chen, Junqing	Chen Wang Corporation
LC 07-289	Chen, Leiyong	De Mei Development Corp.
LC 07-221	Chen, Li	Poong In, Inc.
LC 07-288	Chen, Lian	De Mei Development Corp.
LC 06-122	Chen, Meier	Concorde Garment Corp.
LC 05-354	Lin, Chunya	Rifu Apparel Inc.
LC 07-297	Cueto, Benhur A.	JNJ Corporation
LC 05-399	Cui, Cheng	Kairos Ent. Inc.
LC 07-348	Deng, Lijun	Marianas GMT MGF, Inc.
LC 07-182	Deng, Wenhong	Winner's Corporation
LC 07-326	Dizon, Raymundo V.	Hi-Five Company, Ltd.
LC 06-318	Elloso, Rolando D.C.	Valenzuelas Janitorial
LC 07-178	Esconde, Ramonito O.	Pacific Rainbow (CNMI), Inc.
LC 06-295	Esquerra, Antonio D.	Javili General Partnership
LC 07-193	Fan, Dongjuan	Success Corporation
LC 07-346	Fan, Xiaoli	Marianas GMT MGF, Inc.
LC 06-025 (T)	Fang, Shunfu	Crisostomo, Melvin K.
LC 07-344	Fang, Yu	Marianas GMT MGF, Inc.
LC 07-196	Francisco, Maria C.D.L.	Reyes, Rebecca
LC 05-317	Gao, Yanying	Sako Corporation
LC 01-096	Ge, Yuan Qin	L&T Int'l Corp.
LC 07-347	Geng, Luping	Marianas GMT MGF, Inc.
LC 05-274	Gonzales, Baby B.	Reyes, Joaquin T.
LC 01-096	Gu, Chun Lan	L&T Int'l Corp.
LC 07-101	Gu, Jianhua	Yong Cheng Corporation
LC 07-378	Gu, Lianhua	Sam Kwang Saipan Corp.
LC 05-352	Guintu, Ramon F.	Sakisat, Raymond H.
LC 07-357	Guo, Qiongying	Sam Kwang Saipan Corp.
LC 05-317	Han, Fang	Sako Corporation
LC 07-340	He, Yunfei	Zhang's Corporation
LC 06-103	Hong, Fu Hua	American Pacific Textile
98-101-04	Hossain, Alam	Lozano, Nelia D dba Seiko Employment Services
LC 07-362	Hu, Guojun	Pacific Lucky Corporation
LC 07-392	Huang, Chunyun	Chen Wang Corporation
98-101-04	Huo, Kazi A.	Lozano, Nelia D dba Seiko Employment Services
LC 06-339	Ignacio, Gilbert P.	Sablan, Lisa P.
LC 03-488	Jeong, Dong Wook	Falig, Mariano M.
LC 05-317	Jia, Yun Hong	Sako Corporation
LC 05-401	Jiang, Deke	Yodan Ent. Inc.
LC 01-096	Jiang, Quan Mei	L&T Int'l Corp.
LC 05-376	Jiang, Wengqing	Micro Pacific Inc.
LC 07-173	Jiao, Guangcai	TSP, Inc.
LC 06-136	Jin, Fenghua	Hyunjin Saipan, Inc.
LC 07-274	Jin, Guangxu	K.S. Chang Corporation
LC 07-375	Jin, Shunnu	Sam Kwang Saipan Corp.
LC 07-380	Jin, Shunyu	Sam Kwang Saipan Corp.
LC 07-296	Jovelo, Freddie O.	Jiashen Huang dba Leche
LC 05-051	Ju, Dong Mei	Rifu Apparel Corporation
LC 05-103	Kang, Aihong	United Int'l Corp.
LC 07-385	Ko, Jin Hang	Dr. Ko, LLC
LC 05-317	Leng, Wen Xia	Sako Corporation
LC 07-117	Li, Feng Ye	Cabrera, Edward C.
LC 07-360	Li, Guoxing	Pacific Jang's Corporation
LC 07-353	Li, Lianyu	Jung Uk Corporation
LC 07-372	Li, Xiao Yan	Sam Kwang Saipan Corp.
LC 07-388	Li, Xiuzhi	Ben Tang Game Room
LC 05-156	Liang, Fushi	Winners II Corp.
LC 01-024	Liang, Jian Ling	Li Heng Ltd.
LC 01-024	Liang, Li Ping	Li Heng Ltd.
LC 06-275	Lim, Elizabeth P.	Lucky Corporation
LC 07-109	Lim, Romeo Y.	Loste, Eleanor A.
LC 06-040	Lin, Bing Rong	Taitingfong, Roman A.
LC 05-177	Lin, Hong Mei	I&J Corp.
LC 02-041	Lin, Yawen	FWL Associates Inc.
LC 07-219	Lin, Zhang	WZ Corporation
LC 07-102	Liu, Guihua	LCKG Company, Ltd.
LC 07-124	Liu, Renging	Neo Fashion
LC 07-374	Lu, Dai Fang	Sam Kwang Saipan Corp.
LC 04-305	Lu, Fengqin	Concorde GMT MFG Corp.
LC 07-295	Lu, Kaifeng	Success Corporation
LC 01-024	Lu, Yan Ling	Li Heng Ltd.
LC 07-144	Lu, Yinxiang	Jin Ji Corporation
LC 06-213	Lu, Yuhua	Long Teng Corp.
LC 07-356	Lui, Damei	Sam Kwang Saipan Corp.
LC 05-398	Luo, Guorong	Sun Mei Corp.

CASE #	COMPLAINANT (S)	RESPONDENT (S)
LC 07-355	Macam, Onofre B.	Agbanlog, Ignacio C. Jr.
LC 07-291	Manalo, Ruby A.	Ellis Miller dba EWGE
LC 06-277	Mario, Aquino V.	Cruz, Theresa R.
LC 07-167	Martinez, Rosmari N.	Tadeo, Wilson P.
98-101-04	Miah, Md. Alam	Lozano, Nelia D dba Seiko Employment Services
LC 06-294	Miao, Guojun (ER)	Zhang, Hua (EE)
LC 07-369	Montecarlo, Danilo B.	Greenstone International
CAC 98-101-04	Nebreja, Erma O.	Lozano, Nelia D dba Seiko Employment Services
LC 06-143	Okawa, Kiyoshi P.	Mabu Corp. dba Ken Restaurant
LC 05-042	Ou, Chunming	Marianas Fashion, Inc.
LC 07-324	Pan, Ping	Sam Kwang Saipan, Inc.
LC 07-299	Parocha, Eduardo S.	Sablan Betelnut Distribution
LC 07-345	Pei, Honglian	Marianas GMT MGF, Inc.
LC 07-325	Pesigan, Andrea T.	Bateman, Bruce A.
LC 06-284	Piao, Yongzhe	Vision Corporation
LC 05-172	Qian, Guoqiang	United Int'l Corp.
LC 05-317	Qu, Zhi Yun	Sako Corporation
LC 05-178	Quan, Yu	Top Fashion Corp.
LC 07-017	Quiambao, Angelito J.	Dela Rosa, Elinor
98-101-04	Rahim, Md. Abdur	Lozano, Nelia D dba Seiko Employment Services
98-101-04	Rashid, Harun Ur	Lozano, Nelia D dba Seiko Employment Services
LC 07-240	Salamat, Joel C.	M.R. Phillips Enterprises
LC 07-285	Sanchez, Aurora D.C.	Rifu Apparel Corporation
LC 07-032	Shang, Jijiang	Pacific Lucky Corporation
LC 06-029	Shi, Changsan	Commonwealth Garment MFG, Inc.
LC 07-379	Shi, Xi	Sam Kwang Saipan Corp.
LC 07-125	Shuang, Ruijiao	Winner's Corporation
LC 05-253	Song, Xiaowei	Top Fashion Inc.
LC 07-155	Su, Rulong	Sam Kwang Saipan, Inc.
LC 06-340	Su, Xu	Poong In Saipan, Inc.
LC 01-096	Sun, Hui Ling	L&T Int'l Corp.
LC 07-343	Sun, Xiaoyan	Marianas GMT MGF, Inc.
98-101-04	Taher, Md Abu	Lozano, Nelia D dba Seiko Employment Services
LC 07-320	Tanghal, Cilda B.	Guzman, Linlingay E.
LC 05-317	Tong, Yu Xui	Sako Corporation
98-101-04	Uddin, Mohammed S.	Lozano, Nelia D dba Seiko Employment Services
98-101-04	Ullah, Md. Shafi	Lozano, Nelia D dba Seiko Employment Services
LC 07-313	Wang, Haihua	American Sai Green
LC 07-377	Wang, Haixia	Sam Kwang Saipan Corp.
LC 07-318	Wang, Hong	Pheonix Corporation
LC 06-158	Wang, Ling Fang	Hyunjin Saipan, Inc.
LC 06-163	Wang, Yanzhen	American Sai Green Corp.
LC 01-096	Wang, Zhong Hua	L&T Int'l Corp.
LC 06-271	Weng, Guangxiong	Napias Corp.
LC 06-119	Wu, Liyu	Concorde Garment Corp.
LC 07-294	Xia, Naijun	Wah Li, Inc.
LC 07-233	Xing, Xiao Yu	Shun Yi American Corp.
LC 01-096	Xu, Jin Ping	L&T Int'l Corp.
LC 07-359	Xu, Shunying	Sam Kwang Saipan Corp.
LC 07-319	Xu, Xiang Ling	US CNMI Development Corp.
LC 06-016	Xu, Zhang Yu	Concorde Garment Corp.
LC 02-041	Xu, Zhenlong	FWL Associates Inc.
LC 01-096	Xu, Zhi Xiu	L&T Int'l Corp.
LC 07-181	Xue, Boun	Success Corporation
LC 06-261	Yaekmum, Suthian	United Int'l Corp.
LC 07-205	Yan, Yingyue	Top Fashion Corporation
LC 05-050	Yang, Bao Guo	United Int'l Corp.
LC 07-020	Yang, Gao Fang	Modern, Inc. and Danny Siu
LC 06-147	Yang, Wan Jun	Concorde Garment Corp.
LC 01-096	Yao, Da Bin	L&T Int'l Corp.
LC 07-191	Ye, Jiamin	Top Fashion Corporation
LC 05-160	Ye, Shui Yuan	New Times Inc.
LC 05-146	Yu, Shu Xia	Micro Pacific Inc.
LC 07-358	Yu, Weihong	Sam Kwang Saipan Corp.
LC 06-011	Zeng, Li Ying	Seishin Farm, Inc.
LC 03-193	Zhang, Dao Chang	Nick's & Michael Corp.
LC 05-097	Zhang, Fukui	Sako Corporation
LC 05-383	Zhang, Hairu	Concorde Garment Corp.
LC 06-016	Zhang, Jaijing	Concorde Garment Corp.
LC 01-096	Zhang, Ju Ying	L&T Int'l Corp.
LC 07-194	Zhang, Naigin	Jin Ji Corporation
LC 06-048	Zhang, Qing	Date Corporation
LC 05-236	Zhao, Chun	US CNMI Dev. Corp.
LC 05-211	Zheng, Jinshu	United Int'l Corp.
LC 05-110	Zhong, Qin	Rifu Apparel Corp.
LC 01-096	Zhong, Yi Ping	L&T Int'l Corp.
LC 06-085	Zhou, Cuixia	Concorde Garment Corp.
LC 01-096	Zhou, Guo Ying	L&T Int'l Corp.
LC 06-071	Zhou, Lina	Winners Corporation
LC 07-283	Zhou, Qisen	Y.M. Corporation
LC 07-143	Zhou, Yincheng	Jin Ji Corporation
LC 06-237	Zhou, Yingying	Long Teng Corp.
LC 01-096	Zhu, Cai Hong	L&T Int'l Corp.
LC 07-275	Zhu, Haimei	Yong Cheng Corporation
LC 01-096	Zhu, Hui-Hong	L&T Int'l Corp.
LC 06-008	Zhu, Jin Hong	Michigan, Inc.
LC 07-376	Zhu, Wen Mei	Sam Kwang Saipan Corp.
LC 07-373	Zhu, Yinchuan	Sam Kwang Saipan Corp.
LC 06-281	Zhu, Zhongping	Rifu Apparel, Inc.
LC 07-264	Zhuang, Xuezan	Yong Cheng Corporation

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
PUBLIC NOTICE

AS OF MAY 1, 2008, THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR WILL NO LONGER ACCEPT INCOMPLETE APPLICATIONS. EVERY APPLICATION MUST BE COMPLETE WITH ALL REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION WHEN PRESENTED AT THE WINDOW.

A GLIMPSE OF THE PAST

Looking back at the Mariana Islands the past 62 years



PHOTO BY DMS

From left, Rear Admiral Wendt, ComNavMar Guam, superintendent of schools William S. Reyes, businessman Herman Kintol, and David Sablan at the Top of Tapi Club. Rear Admiral Wendt was honored by local dignitaries during one of his official visits to the Northern Marianas in 1966.

Wiseman finds lawful Scholarship Board's methodology

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Superior Court has affirmed the Scholarship Board's 2006 award of Honors Scholarships that denied the honor scholarship application of former Youth Congress Senator Roselle Demapan Calvo.

Associate Judge David A. Wiseman ruled that the methodology employed by the Scholarship Board to rank eligible applicants was consistent with the requirements of Public Law 14-37.

P.L. 14-37 or the CNMI Scholarship Act of 2004 sets for criteria for qualifying students for acceptance into the CNMI Honor Scholarship Program.

Calvo has failed to demonstrate that an award of a Honors Scholarship was conditioned on the governor's approval.

"Even if such consent was sought, the plaintiff's (Calvo) application had already been rejected once the awardee names were forwarded to the governor," said the judge in his final decision issued on Friday.

Wiseman also ruled that Calvo was afforded adequate process under the law.

Wiseman pointed out that from the record, it appears that the Scholarship Board afforded

plaintiff ample opportunity to be heard, and impartially reconsidered her candidacy.

With a Grade Point Average (GPA) of 3.90, Calvo graduated as salutatorian of her class from Marianas Baptist Academy in May 2006. She timely applied for a CNMI Honor Scholarship Program to pursue her post-secondary education.

Under the Honor Scholarship Program, the board awards up to eight Honors Scholarships to eligible recipients from Saipan based on their scholastic achievement.

On Aug. 28, 2006, Administrator Merissa Seman sent a letter informing Calvo that she was not awarded an Honor Scholarship.

As grounds for denying the application, Seman stated that Calvo ranked 11th among the applicants.

Calvo appealed. The board rejected her request for reconsideration.

In 2007, Calvo, through counsel Robert Torres, sued the Scholarship Board, Seman and board members, for their alleged improper decision denying her honor scholarship application.

At the time, Calvo was studying at the New York University.

In the lawsuit, Torres alleged that the board's regulations

directing the calculation of applicant rankings and the board's attendant award of Honors Scholarships were arbitrary, capricious, an abuse of discretion, or otherwise not in accordance with P.L. 14-37.

Torres asserted that a decision to condition selection of an Honor Scholarship on the approval or recommendation of the governor violated P.L. 14-37 and is arbitrary, biased, capricious, and an abuse of discretion.

Torres said the calculation of certain GPAs in excess of a 4.0 ceiling was entirely arbitrary, capricious, and unsupported by substantial evidence.

He also argued that the boards' decision to reject Calvo's request for reconsideration was without observance of procedure required by law.

Assistant Attorney General Braddock J. Huesman appeared at the final hearing in October 2007 on behalf of defendant Scholarship Board.

In his decision, Wiseman determined that the Scholarship Board's ranking methodology as provided in the Scholarship Regulations, and as exhibited in the board's selection of candidates, is consistent with the plain language and the overall purpose of P.L. 14-37.

Wiseman noted that in es-

sence, the Scholarship Board was able to develop an objective method of ranking applicants without having to reveal the identity of the candidate.

"Such a method, which must at least initially eschew identifying criteria such as extracurricular activities and letters of recommendation, ensures that candidates will be picked solely on their academic achievements rather than through improper subjective considerations such as familial or ethnic identifiers," the judge said.

On the governor's approval issue, Wiseman said there is no evidence to suggest that the list of candidates was presented to Gov. Benigno R. Fitial with the intent of obtaining his approval.

"Plaintiff's chances of being awarded an Honors Scholarship would not have been adversely impacted by any improper gubernatorial interference. Consequently, the court will not inquire further into these largely unfounded accusations," he said.

With respect to due process issue, Wiseman said in light of Calvo's limited property interest in the scholarship award, the board provided her with adequate due process during the proceedings involving her appeal of the board's decision not to award her a scholarship.

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

April 28, 1999

Legislators to cut retirement perks

In yet another casualty of the continuous financial difficulties besetting the Commonwealth, the Legislature is expected to pass measures that would eliminate some retirement benefits for future civil service employees in a bid to reduce the government's monthly contributions to the Retirement Fund. Lawmakers stressed, however, the removal of the benefits will only affect new employees who will join the government work force after the proposal becomes law.

Govt settles portion of unpaid dues to Fund

In a move to ease worries of retirees over potential delay in their monthly pension, the government yesterday settled portion of its back contributions to the Northern Marianas Island Retirement Fund and promised to settle the rest under a payment plan. Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio, along with his finance managers, met with Retirement Fund officials and key members of the Legislature to draw up a plan that would reduce the government's obligation amounting to \$21 million.

CPA eyes land lease to FTZ investors

The Commonwealth Ports Authority will earn some \$538,213 every month from the expected lease of its 20-hectare airport land to Free Trade Zone investors should it decide to charge \$.25 per square foot. However, if the CPA management decide to rent it for \$.30 per square foot, the ports authority will be able to generate an additional monthly revenue of \$645,855.

April 28, 2000

Cost of education per student drops

The Public School System currently spends less than \$4,000 to send one child to school, Education Commissioner Rita H. Inos recently disclosed, noting a decline in the education cost per student in the last three years. According to Dr. Inos, this has been due to certain adjustments PSS has had to contend with based on availability of funds.

Business leaders press Teno to back business reforms

Business leaders yesterday pressed Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio to support the proposed comprehensive labor and business reform measure saying it will help pull out the Northern Marianas from economic distress. But in a breakfast meeting with the Saipan Chamber of Commerce, the governor aired his concern over the proposal's impact on a pending bill in the U.S. Senate which seeks to extend federal immigration and labor laws to the Commonwealth.

Over 15 firms submit intent to undertake Tinian airport project

More than 15 local and off-island construction companies have so far expressed intentions to undertake the improvement of the West Tinian International Airport, a project that has been snagged for years due to financial constraints. Commonwealth Ports Authority officials will be flying to Tinian Friday morning to discuss issues including project scope, deadline for the submission of proposals, construction phasing, contract duration and contract award will be discussed.

April 28, 2003

Feds agree to earlier release of grants to NMC

The U.S. Department of Education has agreed to release the financial aid money allotted for the Northern Marianas College a little earlier than was scheduled amid sanctions stemming from the college's failure to submit timely audit reports. NMC financial and administrative services director David Atalig said he recently met with federal authorities to plead for the lifting of the sanction imposed on the college this year, but they objected to it.

Residents share emotions on SARS

On the issue of the dreaded Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome virus, some Saipan residents are more cautious than others. "I'm taking more vitamins now. My body needs to be strong so I won't get SARS or any disease," said Mercy Reyes, a 36-year-old mother of one.

What lies ahead for old dumpsite?

Do you know that once the Marpi landfill is filled to capacity, it could then be converted into a recreational area such as a baseball or soccer field? While this possibility lies still far ahead for the 26-acre facility that lies on a 43-acre site, the Babauta administration has a more immediate plan for the old dumpsite-Puerto Rico.

Marine pilot first to get ‘wings’ from CNMI

By JAY COPE
NAS WHITING FIELD PUBLIC AFFAIRS

When 1st Lt. Adrian Anthony R. Evangelista received his aviator’s “Wings of Gold” Friday, April 4, he also set a precedent as the first U.S. Marine Corps pilot in the history of the Northern Marianas archipelago.

The Marianas islands have a rich American military history dating back through the horrific battles fought to claim the islands from Japanese during World War II.

The area, including Saipan, Rota, and Tinian islands, also lays claim to having the largest airfield of the WWII era, being the site of the “Great Marianas Turkey Shoot,” and for being the departure point for the two atomic bombs that ended WWII.

Evangelista was fully aware of the history surrounding his homeland, Tinian, and admits that it was a major factor in his decision to become a Marine Corps officer.

“The Marines played such a huge role in liberating the islands, that it played a big role in my decision as well.”

It is hard to imagine that in the past 60 years, no officer from that area has worn the pilot’s wings. However, Tinian is sparsely populated with only about 4,000 residents.

The island is significantly smaller than Saipan and approximately the same population as



Evangelista

Rota, its nearest neighbors.

The islands, also, were not properly a part of the United States until 1975 when the archipelago voted to become a Commonwealth under an agreement with the U.S. administration. This provided the area an opportunity to have a representative able to nominate candidates for consideration to the

Naval Academy.

Evangelista was a freshman when the representative came to his school, and that presentation started the dream. He finished third in his 2000 graduating class three years later and requested the nomination. Evangelista received the nomination, but didn’t gain initial admittance.

Instead, he received an offer to go to the Naval Academy Preparatory School. He accepted and completed the program in 2001. He entered the Naval Academy the next year and graduated in 2005. Following completion of initial training for Marine officers, Evangelista transferred to Naval Air Station Whiting Field and Helicopter Training Squadron-8 for flight training.

“I took the opportunity that was offered and was able to take advantage of it,” he said. “I was just a kid who was trying to work hard, and everything went my way for what I wanted.”

Next on his agenda is transferring to Camp Pendleton in San Diego to learn how to fly the CH-46E troop transport heli-

copter with the Marine Medium Training Helicopter Squadron-164. Once he qualifies, he will then move to Okinawa, Japan, to join a helicopter squadron there.

Evangelista’s journey has evidently inspired his family. Shortly after he joined the academy, two of his younger siblings enlisted in the military.

He also has several cousins who also joined, two of whom are serving in Iraq now. Evangelista doesn’t see anything special in his status, calling himself “a young kid who got an opportunity.”

Other people see things a little differently. Helicopter Training Squadron-8 Commanding Officer Cmdr. Kevin Kropp called Evangelista a “model student” and said he will “an invaluable asset to the fleet in the Global War on Terrorism.”

Similarly, A. P. Sgambelluri, a retired Marine Corps Col. and former Guam Chief of Police praised his capabilities as well.

“I am very proud to know that 1st Lt. Evangelista is now a qualified Naval Aviator Marine Helicopter Pilot. He’s always been a high achiever, thinks fast on his feet, and strives to improve his performance consistently—a typical islander son who displays sincerity of ambitions. As an aviator, he displays the confidence needed to face the toughest leadership challenges ahead.”

WIA Summer Youth program is back for Summer 2008

The Workforce Investment Agency is offering applications for the Summer Youth Employment and Training program. The applications will be accepted from March 17 to April 18, 2008.

If your age 14-21, a U.S. citizen, and unemployed you are

a eligible. The program will be a preparation for youth participants into working in the business environment.

A workshop will be conducted at the American Memorial Park in Garapan from on June 9, 2008 to June 13, 2008. Qualified

participants will learn proper ways of work ethics, customer service, telephone etiquette, and personal grooming.

Participants will work in private or public sectors. They will officially begin working on June 16 to July 25, 2008.

Applications will be available at the Workforce Investment Office, Marianas High School, Southern High School and Kagman High School’s counselor’s offices. For additional information, you may contact them at 664-1704. (WIA)

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Accounting Clerk

Position: Accounting Clerk **Opening Date:** April 24, 2008
Salary: PL 21-1, \$15,105.87 to per annum **Closing Date:** May 23, 2008
to PL21-5, \$18,356.51 per annum
(starting salary commensurates with education and experience)

Job Location: NMHC Central Office, Garapan, Saipan, MP 96950

Detailed job description, qualification requirements and other information may be picked up, together with NMHC’s employment application form, during regular working hours at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan, during regular working hours, 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except CNMI holidays.

Applicants are requested to submit their original application and supporting documents to the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan, no later than 4:30 p.m., Friday, May 23, 2008, **OR MAILED AND POSTMARKED** no later than May 23, 2008, to the Corporate Director, Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P. O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950.

It is the policy of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) that the merit system will be applied and administered according to the principle of equal opportunity for all citizens and nationals as defined by its personnel regulations and the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Constitution regardless of age, race, sex, religion, political affiliation or belief, marital status, disability or place of origin.

NMHC and all its properties are drug-free zones; therefore, selected applicants will be subjected to pre-employment drug screening.

Inquiries may be directed to Edith C. Fejeran, Office Manager, at (670) 234-9447/7689 or by email to ecfjeran@nmhc.gov.mp NMHC is a fair housing agency and an equal opportunity provider, lender and employer.

/s/
Joshua T. Sasamoto
Corporate Director

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Facsimile No.: (670) 234-7256

Attorneys for Plaintiff Commonwealth Development Authority.

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT
OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTH-
ERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY,	Civil Action No. 05-0561C
Plaintiff,	
-vs-	AMENDED NOTICE OF AUCTION
TRIPLE A, INC., JOSEPH A. ARRIOLA, and ANTHONY A. ARRIOLA,	
Defendants.	

The Commissioner of the Department of Public Safety, hereinafter referred to as auctioneer, and the Development Corporation Division of the Commonwealth Development Authority, hereinafter referred to as CDA, hereby give notice that all of the right, title, and interest of the Defendants Triple A Inc., Joseph A. Arriola and Anthony A. Arriola in the following described real property situated in Rota, CNMI will be sold at an auction:

Tract 21769-3-4 (formerly part of Tract 21769-3, which was part of Tract 21769, also known as Lot 352 R 01, AH 72), Rota, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 3005/95 the original of which was recorded 16 February 1995 as Document No. 95-384 at Commonwealth Recorder’s Office, Saipan;

Tract 21769-3-5 (formerly part of Tract 21769-3, which was part of Tract 21769, also known as Lot 352 R 01, AH 72), Rota, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 3005/95 the original of which was recorded 16 February 1995 as Document No. 95-384 at Commonwealth Recorder’s Office, Saipan;

The auction sale will be open to the general public and will be held at CDA’s Conference Room, Saipan, at **2:00 p.m., on Friday, May 16, 2008**, subject to the following announced terms and conditions:

1. **Minimum Bid. No minimum opening bid.**
2. Reserve. The auction shall be held with reserve.
3. Rights and Duties of Auctioneer. Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable law of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auctions with reserve, auctioneer shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction:
 - a.) To withdraw the property listed for sale in this announcement before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted;
 - b.) To adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is struck off, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and
 - c.) To reject, on behalf of the seller, any and all bids.
4. Bids. Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for any and all of the property listed in this notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the item. Bids may be entered in person, in writing, or by telephone to Oscar C. Camacho, Acting Chief Executive Officer, Commonwealth Development Authority, P.O. Box 502149, Saipan, MP 96950, Phone: 234-7145, Fax: 235-7147; or to F. Matthew Smith, P.O. Box 501127, Saipan, MP 96950, Phone: 234-7455, Fax: 234-7256.
5. Deposit, Payment. A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within ten (10) days of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash, cashier’s check or credit card. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within ten (10) days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the ten percent (10%) deposit, and any and all of the buyer’s rights, title and interest in any of the aforementioned property will revert to CDA.
6. Change of Terms. Auctioneer and CDA reserve the right to change any of the terms of conduct and enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause, shall be binding on any buyer by constructive notice.
7. **Inspection and No Warranty.** Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and property; contact CDA for scheduled viewing and inspection times. The interests of (list all) in the property are being sold “AS IS” and without warranty, and subject to the redemption laws of the CNMI. Failure to inspect the real property will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any buyer. Dated this 14th day of April 2008.

/s/ CLAUDIO K. NORITA, Commissioner
Department of Public Safety

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Attorneys for Plaintiff Commonwealth Development Authority.

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT
OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY,	Civil Action No. 04-0175D
Plaintiff,	NOTICE OF AUCTION
-vs-	
ISLAND SECURITY SERVICES, INC., JOAQUIN V. GUERRERO and ESTHER A. GUERRERO,	
Defendants	

The Commissioner of the Department of Public Safety, hereinafter referred to as auctioneer, and the Development Corporation Division of the Commonwealth Development Authority, hereinafter referred to as CDA, hereby give notice that all of the right, title, and interest of the Defendants Island Security Services, Inc., Joaquin V. Guerrero and Esther A. Guerrero in the following described real properties situated in Gualo Rio, Saipan, CNMI will be sold at an auction:

Lot No. 1879 “A”-R4, Lot No. 1879 “A”-4 and Lot No. 1879 “A”-3 (formerly known as Lot No. 1879 “A”-R3), situated in Gualo Rai, Saipan, CNMI, containing an area of 1,389 square meters, 1,073 square meters and 1,072 square meters, respectively, as shown on the Parcel Survey Plat of Lot No. 1879 “A”-R3, DLS Check No. 2153/95, the original of which was filed at the Commonwealth Recorder’s Office, as File No. 95-2194 on September 1, 1995;

and

Lot No. 1602S-R1, situated in Gualo Rai, Saipan, CNMI, containing an area of 10,988 square meters, more or less, as particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 2171/88;

and

Lot No. 1879 “A”-R2, situated in Gualo Rai, Saipan, CNMI, containing an area of 4,142 square meters, more or less, as particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 2100/87.

The auction sale will be open to the general public and will be held at CDA’s Conference Room, Saipan, at **2:00 p.m., on Friday, May 16, 2008**, subject to the following announced terms and conditions:

1. **Minimum Bid. No minimum opening bid.**
2. Reserve. The auction shall be held with reserve.
3. Rights and Duties of Auctioneer. Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable law of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auctions with reserve, auctioneer shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction:
 - a.) To withdraw the property listed for sale in this announcement before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted;
 - b.) To adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is struck off, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and
 - c.) To reject, on behalf of the seller, any and all bids.
4. Bids. Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for any and all of the property listed in this notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the item. Bids may be entered in person, in writing, or by telephone to Oscar C. Camacho, Acting Chief Executive Officer, Commonwealth Development Authority, P.O. Box 502149, Saipan, MP 96950, Phone: 234-7145, Fax: 235-7147; or to F. Matthew Smith, P.O. Box 501127, Saipan, MP 96950, Phone: 234-7455, Fax: 234-7256.
5. Deposit, Payment. A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within ten (10) days of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash, cashier’s check or credit card. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within ten (10) days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the ten percent (10%) deposit, and any and all of the buyer’s rights, title and interest in any of the aforementioned property will revert to CDA.
6. Change of Terms. Auctioneer and CDA reserve the right to change any of the terms of conduct and enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause, shall be binding on any buyer by constructive notice.
7. **Inspection and No Warranty.** Bidders are cautioned to inspect the titles and properties; contact CDA for scheduled viewing and inspection times. The interests of Island Security Services, Inc., Joaquin V. Guerrero and Esther A. Guerrero in the properties are being sold “AS IS” and without warranty, and subject to the redemption laws of the CNMI. Failure to inspect the real properties will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any buyer. Dated this 22nd day of April 2008.

/s/ CLAUDIO K. NORITA, Commissioner
Department of Public Safety

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
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AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Domenici's non-apology

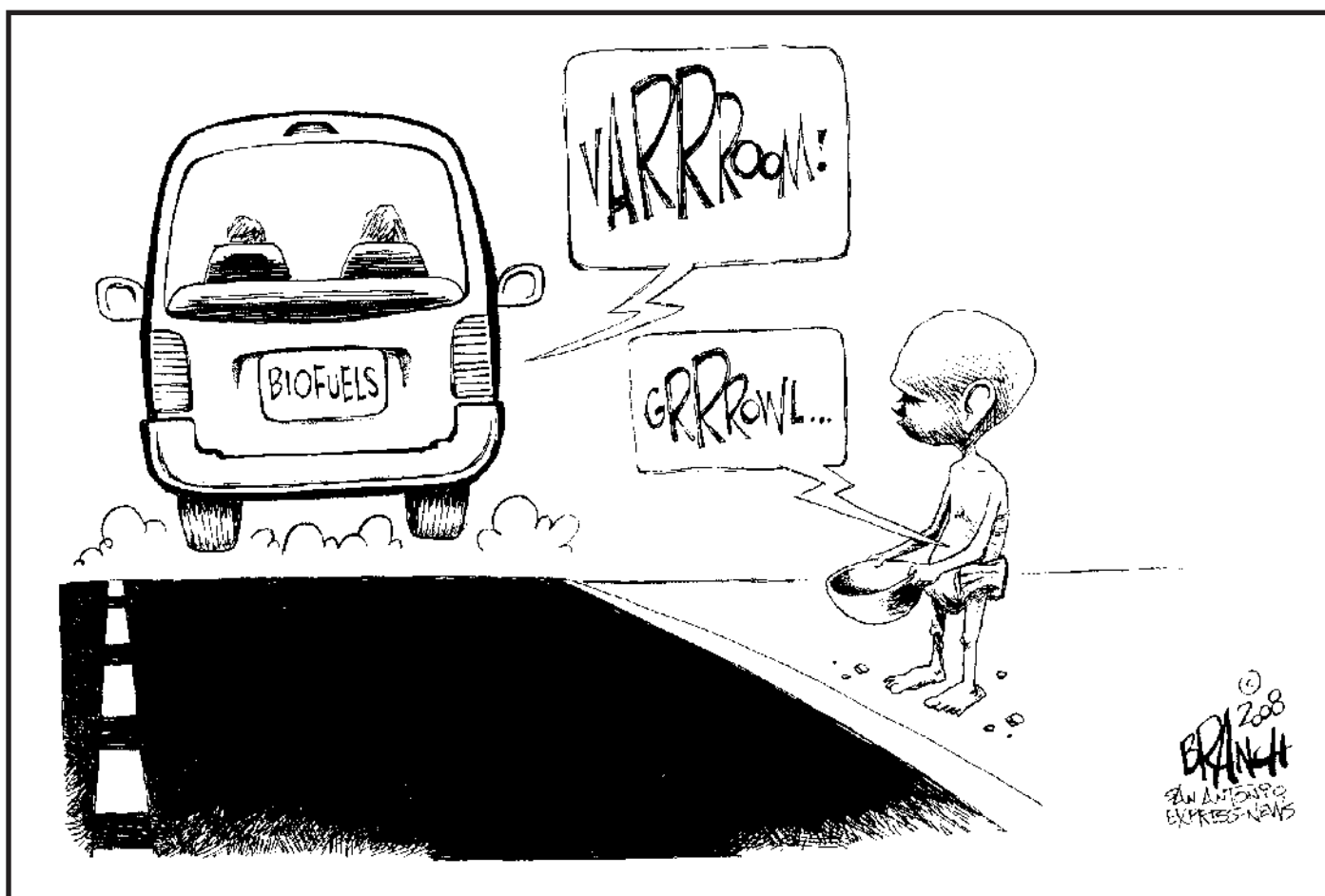
When you're caught doing or saying something inappropriate, you can acknowledge your error and apologize. Or you can issue the modified limited hangout apology, saying that you are sorry if anyone was offended, if your actions caused pain, etc. Unfortunately, Sen. Pete Domenici, R-N.M., chose the latter route in response to the determination by his peers—the Senate ethics committee—that some of his actions “created an appearance of impropriety that reflected unfavorably on the Senate.”

The ethics panel examined Domenici's October 2006 phone call to the U.S. attorney whose appointment he had recommended, David Iglesias. It was the month before a hotly contested election involving Domenici's protege, Rep. Heather Wilson, R-N.M. Domenici, calling Iglesias at home, wanted to know about the timing of a grand jury investigation that touched on New Mexico Democrats and that had become an issue in Wilson's race. Domenici wanted to know whether an indictment would be handed up before the election; when Iglesias said no, the senator responded, according to Iglesias, “I am very sorry to hear that,” and hung up. Iglesias was among eight U.S. attorneys fired two months later.

The ethics panel, in a letter signed by its three Democrats and three Republicans, found “no substantial evidence to determine that you attempted to improperly influence an ongoing investigation.” However, the panel concluded, “you should have known that a federal prosecutor receiving such a telephone call, coupled with an approaching election which may have turned on or been influenced by the prosecutor's actions in the corruption matter, created an appearance of impropriety. ...”

Although the panel said it appreciated the senator's “candor” in saying last year that he regretted making the call, Domenici's statement Thursday was devoid of any acknowledgment that he had overstepped. Indeed, it seemed to go out of its way to explain the limited nature of his previous apology. “I regret the distraction this controversy has caused my colleagues, my staff, my family and, most importantly, my constituents,” the statement said. Domenici suffers from health problems and is retiring at the end of this Congress after a distinguished Senate career. It's too bad he will depart on this unbecoming note.

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Changes! Changes! Are we coping with them?

One of the major problems we face in the CNMI today is that some of us do not want to accept the changes that face us daily. We insist that we can return to the breadfruit culture and the simple island life of say a hundred years ago. We want to cling to the days of yesterday. But sadly changes have made that impossible.

The sooner we accept the changes the faster we will bounce back.

I recall in 1958, when I was recruited as a teacher for the U.S. Navy Dependent School System in Yokohama, Japan, I flew on a military plane with propellers. Jets were not used yet. We left California, stopped in Hawaii for refueling, flew on to Midway stopping for another fueling. Finally, after 20 hours we arrived in Japan.

Several years later, change brought the jet engine to all planes. The flight was reduced to less than 12 hours with no stops except for a short one in Honolulu. Today the flight is even shorter with lots more comfort. Wow! What a change!

As a young student I recall watching television, a revolutionary novelty at that time, in store fronts because they were so expensive and scarce. My family couldn't afford to buy one. The sets were all black and white. Programming was primitive, but I loved it. Compare that set to today's flat plasma screens and sophisticated programming. Aren't we happy for the change?

As a student during one summer, I worked in an insurance company sorting cards that key punch operators prepared. My job was to put them into a machine called a sorter which was about eight feet long. The machine would sort the cards. After sorting, they then were placed in another huge machine called a computer about 10 feet long where the information was stored. This was the beginning of the computer age. But great changes now have made the computer a basic part of our life today. Think of our lives without it? Yet some people are still afraid of it.

Hey, does anybody recall seeing a typewriter? I have an old one at my house and my children are amazed by it. No one uses the old-fashioned ribbon typewriter anymore. Why? Changes! I still have some music records in my house that are 78 rpm, 45 rpm, and 33 rpm. Ask any child what they are and if they have seen them. My wife threatens to throw them out, but I tell her they are museum pieces. Why are they? Changes!

Do without our cell phones for one day. Turn off all electronics for a few days. Imagine if no changes were made in medicine. So the list continues. Technology has changed our daily activities, but some people are still sleeping through all these marvelous changes like Rip Van Winkle who slept through 25 years of change and when he woke up found it difficult to adjust.

One of the most interesting sections of the *Saipan Tribune* is a column called “Flashback—A Look Back at Past Years' Headlines.” There we can read brief news headlines and short summaries under dates which usually go back to 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, and 2002. When I read that column, I often get angry—angry because I see the same problems mentioned that we are wrestling with today. Why? No changes! I also want to scream, “Damn it, what the h... are we doing? Solve it!” Change! Change! Accept

By ANTHONY PELLEGRINO

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Pellegrino is a longtime businessman in the CNMI and is the former president of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce.



it. It is a basic part of life. We cannot return to former days and times nor should we want to.

Many years ago I recall returning to my hometown where I grew up and went to school. When I visited the school, I was thrilled and saddened. It brought back forgotten memories. As I walked the streets and even visited my old house in which my brother and sister enjoyed our childhood, the pleasure was short-lived. I had to move on. The saddest part of the trip was running into former friends. How they had changed and so had I. After a perfunctory meeting lasting only a few minutes, we both walked away realizing that change had made it impossible to go back.

Someone once said to me: “To live is to change, and to be perfect is to have changed often.” Change is the only reality we have. Everything we possess, everything we do, everything in the universe changes. Nothing is static—not even death. Change is natural! Don't fight it. Accept it and learn to adapt to it. Consider—anybody's greatest idea will be good for only a short time. Eventually change will make it irrelevant.

Let's look at several problems we are facing. By refusing to accept the changes needed in ourselves we cannot solve them. We refused to accept and make changes that the impact of the demise of the garment industry would have on our economy. We felt that there would be NO CHANGE! As a result we made no plans and allowances to find substitute industries to replace it.

Consider our ridiculous situation with the CUC. If it weren't such a serious problem it would be laughable. Yet, we refuse to change our attitude towards the problem. It could have been solved a long time ago. But why hasn't it? We adamantly refuse to change? When are we going to stop the bellyaching and jump into reality? Changes must be made! The solution is right in front of us.

We must accept that the CNMI of 2008 is not the CNMI of the 1980s, the 1990s, the 2000s. It is the “now” that we must accept. There is no turning back. The age of cheap labor is gone. We must prepare to work ourselves. Our attitude against becoming skilled and educated people must change. Our thinking about food stamps must change. Federalization is upon us, but many of us are in denial. Our attitude against Article 12 must change. There was a time when it was useful but that time has changed. And unless we change our thinking about it also, a different kind of change will affect us. Remember the bumper stickers often seen on cars? Attitudes are our greatest disabilities! Change requires that we change our attitudes.

See **CHANGES!** on Page 11

EDITORIAL POLICY

The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, CIC Centre, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Beautify CNMI once more

My Earth Day ruminations got some responses from as far as Washington, D.C., Mumbai, and Sydney. I did not realize that *Saipan Tribune's* readership extends that far, but then, in cyberspace, our regular sense of space and time is relative.

Two events this past week (the 27th Annual Flametree Arts Festival and the Legislature's sPEWing out of the marine sanctuary proposal) induced this revisiting of "Beautify CNMI" which is more than just a momentary brush fire of cleanup frenzy in the service of MVA! It represents a movement of people who have made a paradigm shift from treating the planet as a mine pit simply for indiscriminate extractive purposes, as well as a transformative occasion for individuals to discover their umbilical ties and filial loyalty to mother earth.

My first response to the festival booths was the cynical one: here comes the commercialization of our *taotao tano* identity. Save for exhibits like that of Noel Quitugua, which propagate images of heritage through profitable means in order to continue the service, there did not seem to be much claim of authenticity. But I expanded my context, and appropriated even the seeming crash hawking of shells and T-shirts, caps and booties, flowers and potteries, viands and veggies, etc., as valid for the occasion.

The sight stimuli from the booths, the aroma from the food stalls mixed with the ocean breeze and the scented regally attired ladies and gents of the night, the squeals of the children in the kinesthetic arcades, the screams of youth as mating game coupled with skateboarding skills, and the cacophony of tongues traced in lineage from the Hans to the Slavs, the Malays to the Columbians, the Teutons and the DownUnders, the Polynesians and the Melanesians, and points in between, gave me pause of what it really means to claim *taotao tano* identity in this time and place.

The booths and the stage are the drawing attraction of this event. To me, art is the plumbing of our depth relationship to space in the here-and-now, and music is the embracing of the width and breath of rhythms of the spheres.

The confluence of *localis* and *globalis* is what I say to my colleague in the identity-assertion field, Gregorio Cruz Jr., to consider; that indeed, the "people of the land" goes beyond fighting federalization in the political realm, though that exercise legitimately have a place in decision-making. It must reflect authentic identity in the here-and-now rather than an escape to longed for "golden age" of ethnic solidarity in a non-existent time; it must conjure vocation for the generation to come.

There are as much behavioral diversity amongst and between the Olopais and the Hofschneiders, the Babautas and the de leon Guereros, the Ngiraidongs and the Kings, the Pearces and the Tenorios, the Borjas and the Narajas, and other *taotao tanos* as in any specie.

To be contemporaneous is to breath in global space and world-wide history. Limiting identity and being fearful of newfound earthling vocation does not do justice to the creative diversity currently prevailing in these shores. Being local is a matter of choiceJonas Barcinas of Dandan taught our San Vicente 6th graders a song entitled "We Are One," along with dance gestures of the islands, a chorus line being: "*We are one with the Earth, with the Sky, with the Sea.*" We find our *taotao tano* definition in that line!

I was stunned when our leaders up the hill legislated their fears. I have an image of scared and spineless ghosts (as opposed to the forceful and dynamic personalities they exhibited during the political campaign) shaking in their loafers and pumps before the shadows of the ubiquitous un-homogenous feds (there's just as much diversity in 'em Wash. DC-based bureaucrats as any!), and rather uncivil to a civic group called Ocean Legacy, not to mention a guy named Angelo and his PEW.

Ruth L. Tighe in her column wrote: "The proposal has been deemed a "no-brainer" by most who are aware of the proposal—with its protection of marine resources, its promise of world-wide attention to the CNMI, its assurance of increased tourism, scientific research, economic investment—all at no cost to the CNMI—what is there to object to?"

Who indeed, would oppose an Ecozoic Park, of the sea and of

By **JAIME VERGARA**

Special to the Saipan Tribune



Vergara is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune's Opinion Section.

the land? I will not rehash the details other than to say, **there are no details.** The proposal is for the CNMI to get on the table and decide the terms of what the marine sanctuary will be! Evidently, in a world that has long been on denial on global warming, depletion and degradation of ocean and land resources, the tragic aftermath of dwindling fossil fuel, the exploitative operations of the garment industry, we need folks around the table with a vision of needs and requirements of the times, rather than just those addicted to a knee-jerk response of avoidance with a non-decision reminiscent of the hardly missed apparatchiks' *Nyet!*

One of my students during the Holy Week school break went to China. She visited Beijing and the Great Wall, Shanghai and its environs, Guillin and its rock formations, Guandong and Hong Kong, as a tourist. Tourists generally visit a place bringing their home mindsets and their expectations of home comfort with them. They set themselves up for disappointment. Travelers, on the other hand, visit to encounter, dialogue and experience the "other." My tourist student understandably came back with unflattering accounts of food, people, and environment.

"Beautify CNMI" for me is an invitation to cease being a tourist to our home and planet, but to be a traveler, where the journey is the destination—a journey into the marvel of a new Earth and a beautified CNMI, a journey into a new consciousness and a rejuvenated *taotao tano*. And as those of my generation are wont to exclaim, and the Force be with You!

Letter to the Editor

Bye bye marine monument!

Thanks to my good fiend, Mr. John Gourley, who convinced the governor and the Legislature with his letters and verbose editorials, the Pew Charitable Trust has decided to leave the CNMI and take their ideas, and their glossy looking, professional proposal elsewhere (Personally, I prefer a shoddy, dull presentation, because the glossy ones hurt my eyes). I can only wonder what Mr. Gourley's interests and motives were for wanting to kill this idea? And, aah, the spectacular, fabulous, awe-inspiring, wonderful, amazing irony and timing, of passing a resolution against the proposed Marianas Trench Marine National Monument, on none other than Earth Week! What are the chances? It was truly a great week for the death of an environmental bonanza.

Yes, Pew is gone. Mr. Jay Nelson of the Ocean Legacy is now in England, working with governments more amenable to the concept of a marine sanctuary in areas of the world's oceans, away from the likes of the National Marine Fisheries Service or WESPAC with their champion: Mr. Gourley. Jay Nelson has the lofty goal to protect those ocean areas for future generations and for the life of the planet. This is apparently too noble of a cause for the CNMI to even consider after passing a joint Senate resolution against it. Angelo will be without a job and will probably leave the CNMI in a couple of weeks to go work on a candidate's Presidential campaign, where the people may appreciate more the work he is doing. He has no boat trip to go on anymore, anyway, since the \$150,000 boat trip was canceled. You know the one: the big boat trip to Maug, Uracus, and Asuncion to garner international fame and glory for the CNMI with a team of photographers from the *National Geographic* magazine, and Jean Michel Cousteau, the son of the famous marine researcher, Jacques Cousteau. All that is now relegated to the history books of the CNMI in the pages of failed opportunities, where it will cozy up to the OTEC project that the CNMI lost a couple of years ago. It is a sad day for the CNMI, indeed! What a pity. . . Way to go WESPAC!!!

Let's look on the bright side: We can now let the fishermen fish all they want! The fishermen from Rota can fill up their boats with gasoline at \$5 per gallon to go 400 miles to the top three northern islands and decimate the bumpheaded parrotfish for a one time slaughter in Maug. I thought they were too big at any rate. It would be kind of reminiscent of the old days in the Wild West, where the American buffalo herds were so thick and plentiful; they turned the

prairies black; the ground trembled with their passing; and when people would kill as many as they could, just for the sport of it. They can sustainable harvest the fish in the same way. Or, they could follow WESPAC's lead, which allowed the fisherman in Hawaii to harvest all of their lobsters. Oh, no more lobsters in Hawaii? I guess that's too bad for Hawaii. Poor, poor Hawaii, and the sad fate of the monk seals that are dying out. See the following link for the details of the two ongoing federal investigations of WESPAC: <http://belammc.com/wespac/>

Well, let's not forget those manganese nodules, either! We can mine the proposed monument area for manganese nodules! Of course, everyone knows there are billions of dollars of potential treasure in manganese nodules (?) just waiting for some enterprising company to harvest off the bottom of the ocean. Only an idiot would pass this one up, right? Manganese nodules of economic importance probably do not even occur in the proposed monument area, but that will not stop us; nor, will the fact that the CNMI has no control over its mineral rights. Why should it bother us that manganese nodules take millions of years to grow and are found in the abyssal plains at depths of 18,000 feet or more, which is nowhere near the Marianas? We'll spend an additional \$500 million to do further studies and research the potential just like they did in the 1960s and 1970s. Then, we will do some more studies of the studies before taking any actions. Who cares, if it is not economically feasible? All I can say is that Kennecott Copper Company really gave up too easily. They really should spend more money to get those nodules off the ocean floor, than what they are worth. Maybe, they could stockpile them and sell them a few thousand years into the future when the price goes up? It really is easy to look this stuff up on the Internet: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manganese_nodule

We don't need Angelo, either! What has he ever done for Saipan? All he does is stir up trouble and controversy, like presenting glossy proposals on a fantastic opportunity: The Marianas Trench Marine National Monument. Do we really need someone to organize beach cleanups, plant trees, recycle, and care for the environment? Never mind!!!!!! Ron Kramis, when he was here, spoke of a new, better Saipan, that was clean and with beaches that actually looked nice without all the trash. He spoke of a feeling he had that Saipan had

become, in the span of only two years, "The new and improved Saipan," a destination, he could recommend to his friends. As the Public Involvement Coordinator for the NFWF Coral Reef Awareness in Saipan project, Angelo, made us realize the value of our marine environment. By presenting this monumental proposal, he was just taking the next step forward by working for the Pew Charitable Trust to protect a small area of the planet for our future by promoting an idea: The Marianas Trench Marine National Monument. An area of the ocean, which has to date, brought no economic value to the CNMI. What has Mr. Gourley done for us, other than to destroy us?

And, finally, who needed the Ocean Legacy or the Pew Charitable Trust, anyway? Who needed the annual influx of \$10-\$20 million dollars of federal funding for the CNMI? What for? Who cares or wanted all those good paying jobs? All those jobs the local people could have had, could have prepared for by studying courses at NMC; they are all gone: Poof! And: **"We Don't Need No Stinkin Visitor's Center!"** It would just bring in more of those troublesome tourists and an annual budget of millions. WESPAC thinks that World Heritage status for the NW Hawaiian Islands would harm it, because it would draw too many tourists. So, the conclusion to be drawn from WESPAC, is that we may not want to create the monument in the Northern Mariana Islands at all, because it might attract too many tourists. The CNMI wouldn't look good, having all those tourists and researchers coming to Saipan, Tinian, and Rota, spending money, staying in hotels, renting cars, chartering boats, investing in the CNMI, and eating at restaurants. How can that possibly help the CNMI? Are we not doing just fine without all that money? After all, it only represents about 10 percent of the annual CNMI budget. Please, do not count the spin-off value of those dollars.

Finally, I would hate to be anyone associated with the demise of this proposal, which is, quite simply put: "The best idea, the CNMI has ever had dropped into its lap." Bobby Grizzard said it best, when I introduced her to Jay Nelson: "What a great idea! It's a no-brainer! It will never fly in the CNMI! It makes too much sense."

Bye bye monument! Goodbye opportunity! Hello CNMI!

Ken Kramer

Fina Sis

CHANGES!

From Page 10

Accepting change and than making the changes is the only salvation to regaining our economy, dignity and pride. We must study the changes and utilize them to our

advantage. Stop walking forward with our heads turned backward and with our hearts longing for what will never be again.






All of us accept external changes but we rebel when we have to change internally. To achieve lasting results we must change our minds. Unless we change, change will change us but not to what we would like it

to be. Change is inevitable—for bad or for good. We win or lose by how we choose. Believe it or not—the CNMI can become a prosperous and exciting place to live once we accept the changes necessary. Tomorrow take a long look at the sun as it rises and accept the necessary changes. I have accepted the changes.

Sattelite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
				
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲85° ▼76°	▲83° ▼76°	▲84° ▼77°	▲84° ▼76°	▲84° ▼76°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Partly Sunny	▲83 ▼76
Palau	Mostly Cloudy	▲87 ▼75
Yap	Mostly Cloudy	▲88 ▼76
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲83 ▼74
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲83 ▼73
Kosrae	Mostly Cloudy	▲88 ▼75
Majuro	Mostly Cloudy	▲85 ▼75

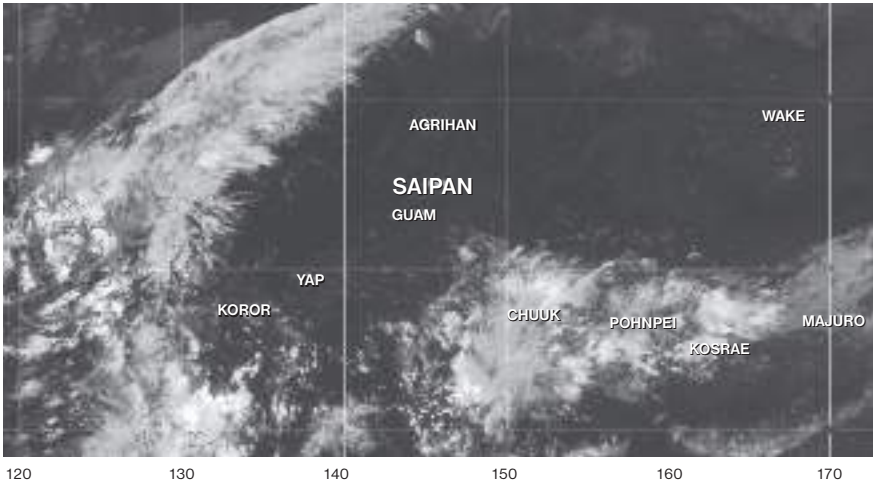
Around The Globe

Auckland	Thunderstorms	▲72 ▼53
Beijing	Sunny	▲92 ▼66
Hong Kong	Mostly Cloudy	▲78 ▼70
Honolulu	Cloudy	▲81 ▼73
London	Rain	▲52 ▼38
Los Angeles	Mostly Cloudy	▲74 ▼56
Manila	Thunderstorms	▲89 ▼68
Melbourne	Cloudy	▲59 ▼47
Miami	Mostly Sunny	▲81 ▼69
New York	Showers	▲57 ▼41
Osaka	Partly Sunny	▲74 ▼56
Paris	Rain	▲53 ▼35
Pusan	Partly Sunny	▲74 ▼62
Rome	Cloudy	▲68 ▼50
Salem	Rain	▲48 ▼38
San Francisco	Partly Sunny	▲61 ▼49
Seoul	Partly Sunny	▲76 ▼55
Tokyo	Mostly Sunny	▲70 ▼60
Washington, DC	Cloudy	▲59 ▼40

Tides

Saipan Harbor		
2:19AM Today	High Tide:	1.7 Feet
7:35AM Today	Low Tide:	1.4 Feet
11:29AM Today	High Tide:	1.5 Feet
7:27PM Today	Low Tide:	0.1 Feet

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, SUNDAY, APRIL 27, 2008

Western North Pacific between Equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold front cuts southwestward across the discussion area from 25N142E to 22N135E and then continues as a shearline to 20N130E and beyond. Extensive cloudiness and patchy rain are found along and up to 200 miles northwest of the cold front. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are seen along and up to 250 miles north of the shearline. A near-equatorial trough runs eastward from 5N130E through a weak circulation centered near 4N143E to EQ150E. Convergent west winds south of the trough axis are generating scattered showers and a few thunderstorms south of Koror or south of a line from 4N130E to 3N141E to EQ142E. A surface trough reaches northward from 3N149E to 10N151E aided by upper-level divergence. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are forming just south of Chuuk within 100 miles of a line from 2N150E to 7N152E. Convergent trade-winds east of the surface trough are generating more scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms over Pohnpei and Kosrae in an area bounded by a line from 3N154E to 3N161E to 7N167E to 9N156E and back to 3N154E. Trade-wind convergence is producing scattered showers south of Kwajalein but over Majuro within 50 miles of a line from 7N166E to 7N173E. Trade-wind convergence is also combining with upper-level divergence to cause scattered showers well northeast of Majuro within 80 miles of a line from 9N173E to 12N180. A nearly stationary front curves westward from 25N180 through weak low pressure centered northeast of Wake Island at 24N169E to beyond 25N at 165E. Scattered showers are occurring along this boundary and northward to beyond 25N.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:55AM	6:34PM
Tuesday	5:55AM	6:34PM
Wednesday	5:54AM	6:34PM
Thursday	5:54AM	6:35PM
Friday	5:53AM	6:35PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	12:16AM	11:46AM
Tuesday	12:59AM	12:39PM
Wednesday	1:40AM	1:32PM
Thursday	2:19AM	2:25PM
Friday	2:58AM	3:19PM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

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 - ISLAND SNAPSHOTS Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
 - BIRTHDAY GREETINGS A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
 - BUSINESS Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
 - SAMU'T SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
 - TRAVELOGUE Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS

- Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

- For pictures:**
 - Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
 - Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
 - Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
 - Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
 - For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.
- For announcements:**
 - Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

- the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF APRIL 8, 2008

DEPARTURES	ARRIVALS
Saipan-Rota CO 9313 8:30am 9:05am 3,4,7	Rota-Saipan CO 9598 11:10am 11:45am 1,2,6
Saipan-Guam CO9317 4:00am 4:50am Daily CO9597 8:30am 9:20am 1,2,5,6 CO9313 8:30am 10:00am 3,4,7 via Rota CO9601 12:30pm 1:20pm Daily CO9603 3:30pm 4:20pm Daily CO9605 6:30pm 7:20pm Daily CO9599 9:30pm 10:20pm Daily	Guam-Saipan CO 9316 2:30am 3:20am Daily CO9596 7:00am 7:50am Daily CO9598 10:15am 11:45am 1,2,6 via Rota CO9600 10:45am 11:35am 3,4,5,7 CO9602 2:00pm 2:50pm Daily CO9604 5:00pm 5:50pm Daily CO9606 8:00pm 8:50pm Daily
Saipan-Narita NW 078 8:40am 2:00pm Daily via Nagoya NW 075 4:45pm 7:25pm Daily	Narita-Saipan NW 076 10:15am 2:50pm Daily NW 077 6:25pm 1:25am+1 Daily via Nagoya
Saipan-Osaka NW 083 4:20pm 7:10pm Daily	Osaka-Saipan NW 084 10:30am 3:05pm Daily
Saipan-Nagoya NW 078 8:40am 11:25am Daily	Nagoya-Saipan NW 077 9:00pm 1:25am+1 Daily
Saipan-Manila CO 895 4:45pm 6:35pm 6 CO 895 6:45pm 8:35pm 3	Manila-Saipan CO 890 9:15am 2:55pm 6 CO 890 11:45am 5:35pm 3
Saipan-Seoul OZ 604 2:20am 6:00am 1 OZ 604 2:50am 6:30am 2,3,4,5,6,7 OZ 606 3:30pm 7:00pm 2,4,6,7	Seoul-Saipan OZ 605 9:00am 2:30pm 2,4,6,7 OZ 603 7:40pm 1:10am+1 7 OZ 603 8:10pm 1:40am+1 1,2,3,4,5,6
Saipan-Busan OZ 608 3:50am 7:20am 1,4,5,7	Busan-Saipan OZ 607 9:30pm 2:50am+1 3,4,6,7
Guam-Manila CO 891 6:00am 10:30am 3 via Yap and Koror CO 893 6:30am 8:05am 6 CO 893 8:25am 10:00am 2,7 CO 893 5:50pm 9:10pm 5 via Koror CO 933 7:00pm 8:40pm Daily PR 111 6:00am 7:45am 1,2,4,6,7	Manila-Guam CO 894 11:20am 4:55pm 2,7 CO 894 7:45pm 1:20am+1 6 CO 892 9:45pm 6:30am+1 3 via Koror and Yap CO 892 10:10pm 5:30am+1 5 via Koror CO 934 10:55pm 4:30am+1 Daily PR 110 10:15pm 4:00am+1 1,3,5,6,7
Saipan-Guanzhou CZ 3008 5:00am 8:00am 2,6	Guanzhou-Saipan CZ 3007 8:00pm 4:00am+1 1,5
Guam-Hongkong CO 909 6:40pm 9:25pm 1,5	Hongkong-Guam CO 910 10:35pm 5:15am+1 1,5
Guam-Rota CO 9598 10:15am 10:45am 1,2,6	Rota-Guam CO 9313 9:30am 10:00am 3,4,7

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; PR: Philippine Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CA: Air China; NW: Northwest; JO: Japan Airlines; OZ: Asiana; MU: China Eastern
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota				FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily	FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily	FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota				FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily	FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily	Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
Guam-Rota				FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily	FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily	FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
Saipan-Rota				FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily	FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily	FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily	FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily	FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily	FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily	FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily				
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily				



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Letters to the Editor

Kudos to the 16th Legislature

We applaud the majority of the 16th Legislature who heard our letter of concern last Friday lobbying opposition to the granting of special privileges of long-term guest workers here in our homeland. Most importantly, we are glad that the bill itself was not even entertained. The people of the Commonwealth, especially the local indigenous Northern Mariana Descent people of the land must understand that TAOTAO pursuit on this matter is of great importance to the future generations and ones own self-interest of garnering additional votes is of great insult, disrespect and total disgrace to their constituents. TAOTAO TANO will continue to monitor our legislative body’s movement on this long-term guest worker issue, for such an issue must never take place.

In addition we want to also address the newly formed United Coalition of Guest worker group, led by Mrs. Irene

Tantiado, Jerry Custodio, Simong Sin, and Ronnie Docca that their quest for “improved immigration status” here in our homeland is moot. A majority of the guest workers here in our homeland continue there issue of unfairness and injustices but they seemed to ignore the fact that their status improved the minute they set foot in our homeland otherwise they wouldn’t have lived here 10, 15, 20 or 27 years.

The federal issue here in our homeland has been an ordeal, and we believe that we all have been oppressed at different angles on the issue and TAOTAO TANO firmly believes that it is nothing other than NATIONAL SECURITY with the military buildup from Okinawa to Guam. It is time that we prepare and embrace the reality and let us all move forward to a better Commonwealth.

TAOTAO TANO is looking forward in discussing issues

with the federal government to get the much0needed assistance from our troubled power plant to everything else affecting our general well being here in our homeland. TAOTAO TANO also believes that by working closely with the federal government and understanding them we will be able to negotiate the long-overdue higher standard of living as true American citizens in this great Commonwealth.

We are sure that the next Commonwealth address which will take place next month will end up with the government being broke for the third year with no chance of recovery including more empty promises and no light at the end of the tunnel.

Gregorio Cruz
TAOTAO TANO president

Arguments against Pew proposal are political and economic

I support the Pew Charitable Trust Fund proposal to create a national marine monument around the CNMI’s three northernmost islands, Maug, Asuncion, and Uracas. This project is designed to protect marine habitat and the life within it. Conservation is an important goal for all of us because we need our oceans to be healthy for the wellbeing of our planet.

The national marine monument would create a zone of protected marine habitat—a “no-take” zone, a sanctuary, a refuge for marine life.

There are no conservation arguments against creating this national marine monument. The arguments raised against it are political and economic. Neither political nor economic reasons, though, outweigh the benefits of conservation that we will get with a national marine monument. Nor do the political or economic arguments against the national marine monument project, in and of themselves, warrant rejecting this proposal.

Conservation

Most people support conservation. Despite efforts at conservation, our oceans are showing increasing signs of poor health. Now is the time for strong action. We need zones that are completely free from humanity’s rapacious appetite.

The current system of protection is not working. The current system employs a “sustainable fisheries” model where it looks at fish species-by-species. Global satellite imaging, however, shows that our oceans are in trouble. We need “no-take” zones, a place where marine life can find refuge and take sanctuary, be safe and thrive.

Conservation and protection of environment is the strongest argument in favor of the national marine monument around the CNMI’s three northernmost islands.

Politics

But the CNMI can’t create this marine haven.

The CNMI has already lost the court case about controlling submerged lands. Contrary to what’s been stated by some arguing against the proposal, the submerged lands issue has been decided and settled. The CNMI owns only that submerged land from the islands to the high water mark. Everything else from there out is not owned by the CNMI. The U.S. has ownership and control of the “exclusive economic zone” beyond the CNMI’s islands, the EEZ that is a portion of the ocean and submerged land extending out 200 nautical miles from land.

The fury and distrust toward the U.S. that is once again being

whipped up serves no purpose in the argument against the Pew Charitable Trust proposal. It gets the CNMI nothing to turn down the national marine monument project.

The U.S. government is not a foreign power. It is our government, as much as the CNMI government is our government. Objecting to the proposal because it is a “federal” or “national” marine monument is not an argument against protecting the natural habitat. It is the politics of control. If it’s a good idea to have a protected zone (and it is), then it’s a good idea whether the U.S. does it or the CNMI does it. And frankly, it’s better for the CNMI to have the U.S. pay for it.

Maintaining the status quo gets the CNMI nothing politically. It also does nothing beneficial for us on the conservation scale. Rejecting it keeps the status quo. However, Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council (WESPAC) and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), the two agencies presently in charge of protecting our marine resources, have a poor record on the job.

Lawsuits and other reports detail the failures of NMFS to protect marine life in Hawaii waters, in the Atlantic, in the Gulf of Mexico, and in the Pacific Northwest. Similarly, WESPAC is under investigation for using federal money to lobby state legislatures on behalf of fishing interests. A cursory glance at the recently reported composition of WESPAC’s nominated representatives shows a lopsided weighting of “community voices” on behalf of fishing (commercial, tourist, and gasoline enterprise) interests, with no environmental interests represented.

There is no good reason for the public to have confidence in either of these agencies when it comes to protecting our precious marine environment.

Much of the objection to the Pew Charitable Trust Fund proposal for a national marine monument around our three northernmost islands is an objection to changing from the lax regulation by WESPAC and NMFS to the more environmentally protective NOAA control.

But from a political point of view, all of these agencies are federal.

The frenzy against the “federal” aspect of the monument is a red herring to disguise the preference for federal agencies that regulate in favor of commercial fishing interests, and against those that regulate in favor of environmental protection. The real objection is to conservation and protection of marine habitat and marine life, and a desire to maintain the present system of nearly unlimited taking in the ocean waters around our islands.

A place where we care about our planet. The arguments against the PEW Monument which have appeared in letters to the editor in your paper and which have been made by some government officials in reporter’s articles miss the point.

And this is the point: Humans and their activities are slowly killing the world we live in and the CNMI has been presented with a golden opportunity to save a tiny part of the planet. Saving any part

But I thought the central government has repeatedly stated it couldn’t pay anything to the fund for the last two years—and didn’t. A law was even passed so they wouldn’t have to pay and wouldn’t violate anything by not doing so. And, just recently, the central government stated it had no more money to reprogram or to help CUC buy fuel. So now, all of a sudden, the central government HAS money to pay 11 per cent to the fund AND three and one-half per cent to CUC and will pass yet another law to do so?

That sounds a bit like penny wise and pound foolish—too little, too late. I can’t wait to see where this newfound 14 and one-half per cent will come from. I’ll even bet the central government can’t wait either!

Economic

The economic reasons being proposed against the national marine monument are not persuasive, either. The waters at the northern end of the Marianas are accessible only to the larger fishing boats, commercial vessels that are usually foreign. The waters that would be protected constitute roughly one-third of the EEA. While commercial fishing interests might be obstructed somewhat by the national marine monument, two-thirds of our EEZ would still be open to their business.

Meanwhile, our local fishermen are generally not fishing that far north. They would find that the cost of gasoline and time make fishing around Maug, Asuncion, and Uracas unprofitable.

There are also economic reasons to promote conservation and the national marine monument. The natural world is a not an unlimited “bank” for our unlimited access. We cannot tap the world’s resources just because we want to, benefit financially from it, and have the capability to do so. Why not? Because we are not depositors into that natural world “bank.” We’re not putting anything good back into the ocean. And if we keep taking out resources without limits, we create dire consequences for ourselves and our children. Economically, it makes sense to preserve our oceans’ health. “Sustainable fisheries” projects as presently managed aren’t doing that. We need no-take zones, sanctuaries, refuges for our marine life. Otherwise, our oceans will be tapped out, and then it will be our children and grandchildren, and their children and grandchildren who have nothing left.

The national marine monument will also produce income, possibly more than the commercial fishing interests presently operating. We can expect to see a tourist center in Saipan. We could revitalize our tourism industry with promotions of eco-tourism. We could see people from around the world seeking to visit this national marine monument. We can also help improve our CNMI image, so tarnished by the lingering imprint of human trafficking of sex workers and sweatshop labor abuses. Instead, we could share our natural beauty with the world and be known as an ecological haven, a “green” bit of paradise.

I support the creation of national marine monument. We need this. We need it now.

Jane Mack
San Vicente

of the planet that we can is the right thing to do period. All the silly arguments made against this proposal pertaining to who gets to manage (*exploit*) the resources found in and around the islands in the future are part of the problem—not the solution.

Wesley Bogdan
Papago

Looks like Bill Stewart, and others, may be correct: The fund will be out of money and no one will receive a retirement paycheck after about 2018 or so. When do YOU plan to retire? And how long will you live after retirement? Regardless, maybe you should consider something besides a government retirement check for your support.

I guess this all means that the central government is willing to sacrifice not only the retirement of its employees, both past and present, but CUC as well?

Dr. Thomas D. Arkle Jr.
San Jose, Tinian, ex-pat

A brilliant idea, a gift from heaven

The opportunity to create a NMI Marine National Monument (PEW Monument) is a brilliant idea, a gift from heaven at an exceptionally dark moment in time for the CNMI. It is hard to imagine how anyone could possibly be against it. For starters, the creation of such a monument would instantly begin changing the world’s perception of Saipan from a alien sweatshop full of prostitutes and nonresident workers to world class eco-friendly tourist destination.

Can this be right?

Let’s see now, if I understand this correctly, House Bill 16-90, among other things, will mandate the central government to reduce its employer contribution rate to the defined benefit employee retirement plan from 18 per cent to 11 per cent. It will also mandate that one-half of the SAVINGS (?) (Supposedly, that’s three and one-half per cent) will be used to pay a subsidy to CUC so it can buy fuel.

I also read (on Sunday) that Buck Consultants has said that the central government must pay 37.39 per cent of payroll JUST to keep the fund going (healthy?)—About \$51.62 MILLION per year. If that’s correct, that amount is more than one third of the entire CNMI budget. The proposed 11 percent is nowhere near that.

Business

Dealers see SUV glut as drivers trade in gas guzzlers

MIAMI (AP)—For used car dealer Ivan Hoyos, accepting a sport utility vehicle as a trade-in is no longer good business. The only SUV he's offering at his Florida Auto Sales and Finance is his mother's red 2004 Mitsubishi Endeavor.

With only 21,000 miles on it, he's advertising the six-cylinder vehicle with the online network Craigslist for \$13,991—about \$200 less than Kelley Blue Book's suggested retail value. Hoyos' mom purchased a Mazda 5, a smaller crossover vehicle with plenty of interior room but better gas economy—up to 28 miles per gallon as opposed to about 20 for the Mitsubishi.

"Nobody is buying used SUVs," said Hoyos, 35, who stopped accepting them six months ago. "The truth is more and more dealers are staying away from used SUVs and large trucks ... It doesn't pay. You can't have a unit sitting on the lot forever."

As gas prices pass \$3.50 a gallon nationally and the economy teeters on recession, independent used car dealers like Hoyos and massive chains like AutoNation Inc. are having trouble selling used SUVs as buyers prefer smaller, more fuel-efficient vehicles like hy-

brids and crossovers (CUVs). Crossovers such as the Ford Edge, Honda CR-V, and Toyota RAV4 have more interior room and more rugged styling than the average car, but with a lighter chassis and generally better gas economy than an SUV.

Used SUV sales in March were down 14 percent nationally compared to last year, according to data compiled by CNW Market-

ing Research. That follows drops in used SUV sales of more than 8 percent for the first two months of the year, compared to the same months in 2007.

That trend has sent used SUV prices plummeting, giving owners a shock when they try to trade theirs in and find out how little they can get.

"Owners find out they don't have the trade equity they

thought they had and are forced to keep their vehicles or come up with a large sum of cash to make up the difference," said Chris Denove, a vice president of the auto information firm J.D. Power and Associates.

David Tivadar has spent three months trying to get fair trade-in value for his 2005 Lexus SUV, which gets about 17 miles per gallon. He would like to trade it

in for a minivan that gets better mileage and can accommodate his baby daughter.

He bought the Lexus new for about \$33,000, and said the monthly payments of \$465 "would be more manageable if

gas prices weren't so high."

Tivadar would rather trade in his SUV than deal with the hassle of selling it himself, and he plans to visit other dealers to see if he can get better trade-in value.



Al Johnson, used car sales manager at AutoNation's Maroone Nissan dealership in Pembroke Pines, Fla., stands on the lot in front of unsold used SUVs as he watches for customers, Monday, April 14, 2008.

Common glitch at pump adds to gas costs

ALBANY, N.Y. (AP)—Angry about the price of gas? Just imagine paying for gas you don't get. Some alert consumers have noticed it over the years: A pump that seems to hesitate a second when the lever is squeezed. Anywhere from 2 to 6 cents tick off before the rush of gasoline starts. That's what happens with a common, hard to diagnose and mostly ignored problem with the "check valve," which is supposed to make sure gas flows at the same time the price meter starts.

But even if your gas pump works, it can still be off as much as \$5 for every fill up. Tests by local regulators allow a pump to charge as much as 6 cents more than the gas delivered in a five-gallon test.

Don't blame the gas guys.

Even consumer advocates say retailers may be losing as often as consumers and no one appears able to rig the meters. But the small "check valve" at the end of the multibillion dollar industry just wears out, and often goes unnoticed for months.

Regulators' records show short staffing, particularly for financially struggling counties that try to inspect pumps every six months, but too often don't even meet the one-year requirement in states like New York.

Federal standards require all gas pumps to start pumping gas as soon as the price meter starts, said Ken Butcher of the National Institute of Standards of Technology, part of the U.S. Commerce Department.

Bob Wolfram knew something was wrong when the

pump he used in Davenport, Iowa, showed he put two more gallons of gas into his tank than the tank holds.

"I was low, but it wasn't negative," said Wolfram, a 54-year-old engineer.

He reported it to a consumer Web site then took it to the government regulators, who acted promptly. But even then, the test showed the pump was only off a quart.

"I just kind of said, 'What will they do next?'" Wolfram said.

Correcting the problem depends on alert, well-informed consumers like Wolfram. It also depends on honest retailers who choose to pass along reports to regulators who must confirm the problem before an authorized repair company is called to fix it.

"There's one Mobil owner,

he tells clerks that if there's a discrepancy within \$5 to reimburse the customer," said C. Todd Godlewski, director of the Schenectady County Bureau of Weights and Measures in upstate New York, the agency that inspects pumps.

"Yes, it can be that much," he said.



BUSINESS BRIEFS

Negotiators reach tentative farm bill deal

WASHINGTON (AP)—Congressional negotiators reached a tentative agreement Friday on a multibillion-dollar farm bill that includes a hefty increase for nutrition programs at a time of rising food prices. An intense series of closed-door bargaining sessions over how to pay for the five-year, roughly \$280 billion bill ended Friday afternoon with senior Democrats expressing optimism that they would soon be sending the measure to President Bush. "I don't think there's any question now that we can get this done by the eighth of May," said Rep. Collin C. Peterson, the Minnesota Democrat who heads the Agriculture Committee. A key breakthrough came when senior lawmakers, after an hours-long huddle in an ornate room in the Capitol, agreed on a \$1.7 billion package of tax breaks to be included in the bill, and on how to finance the overall package.

Northwest matches fare increases initiated by United

EAGAN, Minn. (AP)—Northwest Airlines will match the fare increases put in place by other major carriers this week. Northwest said Friday night it will match the approximately 3 percent

to 5 percent increases first implemented Thursday by United Airlines and matched by Delta Air Lines, American Airlines and Continental Airlines. Jim Cron, senior vice president of revenue management, said Northwest made the move "to offset the extraordinarily high cost of fuel." The fare increase comes on the heels of Northwest's earnings report this week, which showed a \$4.1 billion loss in the first quarter, almost all of it from a massive accounting charge.

NY-based Eos Airlines to cease operations

PURCHASE, N.Y. (AP)—New York-based business class-only Eos Airlines says it has filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy and will cease operations by Monday. The airline is planning to operate its final flights between London's Stansted Airport and New York's Kennedy Airport on Sunday. The Purchase-based company intends to eliminate most of its work force. Chief Executive Officer Jack Williams says in a statement that the "challenging economic and credit environment" forced the company to file a voluntary petition for Chapter 11 bankruptcy. The airline launched round-trip service for business travelers from New York to London in 2005. It was named after the Greek goddess of the dawn.

Investors look to earnings for hints about consumer spending

NEW YORK (AP)—Wall Street has so far had a mostly subdued reaction to corporate earnings released in the past few weeks, but that could be about to change.

Just about halfway through the first-quarter reporting season, most of the blue chips that make up the Standard & Poor's 500 index have not pulled any surprises. In fact, stripping out the gloom coming from financial companies like Merrill Lynch & Co. or Citigroup Inc., profits are up 11 percent year-over-year.

With this generally good performance, the market hasn't had the kind of turbulence that some feared before the start of earnings season, and the S&P 500 index has risen about 4 percent in the past two weeks.

But the coming week might change the market's dynamics, as a string of consumer-oriented companies including electronics stores and food companies are scheduled to release their results. Wall Street is worried about slowing consumer spending, and these

companies might give investors their best indication yet about how much Americans are willing to spend these days.

"We've pieced together a decent earnings season so far, and everybody handicapped the financials out of the market," said Chris Johnson, president of Johnson Research Group. "Now the companies that represent the activities of the consumer are going to fall in the crosshairs, and that can tell us more about where this economy is heading."

Nation

Bush tweaks candidates at correspondents' dinner

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Bush poked fun at his potential successors Saturday night, expressing surprise that none of them were in the audience at the White House Correspondents' Association annual dinner.

"Senator McCain's not here," Bush said of GOP nominee-in-waiting John McCain. "He probably wanted to distance himself from me a little bit. You know, he's not alone. Jenna's moving out too."

Bush then referred to scandals that have dogged the campaigns of the two remaining Democratic candidates, Hillary Rodham

Clinton and Barack Obama, in explaining their absence: "Hillary Clinton couldn't get in because of sniper fire and Senator Obama's at church."

During the ongoing campaign, Clinton mistakenly claimed to have landed under sniper fire in Bosnia as first lady. Obama's longtime Chicago pastor has been criticized for his negative comments about America.

The president admitted to being "a little wistful" in his final appearance at the dinner, showing video clips of his routines from previous years. He finished by conducting the U.S.

Marine Band in a medley of patriotic marches.

Bush was followed by Craig Ferguson, the host of CBS' "Late Late Show."

The Scottish-born Ferguson found middle ground between the tepid impersonations of last year's entertainer, Rich Little, and the merciless satire that Comedy Central's Stephen Colbert delivered in 2006.

Ferguson, who became a U.S. citizen in February, asked Bush what he was going to do after leaving office, then suggested, "You could look for a job with more vacation time." The presi-

dent has drawn criticism for the amount of time he has spent away from the White House during his presidency.

Vice President Dick Cheney, Ferguson said, "is already moving out of his residence. It takes longer than you think to pack up

an entire dungeon."

The guest list for the dinner included plenty of VIPs from outside the Beltway: Actors Ben Affleck, Jennifer Garner, John Cusack, Pamela Anderson and Claire Danes, singers Ashlee Simpson and the Jonas Brothers

and author Salman Rushdie were among the invitees. Washington's power elite was still well represented, with Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia and Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff in attendance.

Reno urged to prepare for worse as tremors continue

RENO, Nev. (AP)—Scientists urged residents of northern Nevada's largest city to prepare for a bigger event as the area continued rumbling Saturday after the largest earthquake in a two-month-long series of temblors.

More than 100 aftershocks were recorded on the western edge of the city after a magnitude 4.7 quake hit Friday night, the strongest quake around Reno since one measuring 5.2 in 1953, said researchers at the seismological laboratory at the University of Nevada, Reno.

The latest quake swept store shelves clean, cracked walls in homes and dislodged rocks on hillsides, but there were no reports of injuries or widespread major damage.

Seismologists said the recent activity is unusual be-

cause the quakes started out small and continue to build in strength. The normal pattern is for a main quake followed by smaller aftershocks.

"A magnitude 6 quake wouldn't be a scientific surprise," John Anderson, director of the seismological lab, said Saturday. "We certainly hope residents are taking the threat seriously after last night."

But Anderson stressed there was no way to predict what would happen, and said the sequence of quakes also could end without a major one.

Reno's last major quake measured 6.1 on April 24, 1914, and was felt as far away as Berkeley, Calif., said Craig dePolo, research geologist with the Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology.

A rockslide triggered by Friday night's quake was blamed for causing a 125-foot breach in a wooden flume that carries water to one of two water treatment plants in Reno, a city of about 210,000.

A backup pump was used to divert water to the plant, and the breach was not expected to cause any water shortages, said Aaron Kenneston, Washoe County emergency management officer.

The U.S. Geological Survey said Friday night's quake was centered around Mogul, just west of Reno. The area of upscale homes along the eastern Sierra was rattled by more than 100 quakes the day before, the strongest a magnitude 4.2 that caused high-rise casinos to sway in downtown Reno.



President Bush conducts the United States Marine Corps Band, known as "The President's Own," during the annual dinner of the White House Correspondents' Association, Saturday, April 26, 2008, in Washington.

Sharpton vows to 'close this city' after officer acquittals

NEW YORK (AP)—Hundreds of angry people marched through Harlem on Saturday after the Rev. Al Sharpton promised to "close this city down" to protest the acquittals of three police detectives in the 50-shot barrage that killed a groom on his wedding day and wounded two friends.

"We strategically know how to stop the city so people stand still and realize that you do not have the right to shoot down unarmed, innocent civilians," Sharpton told an overflow crowd of several hundred people at his National Action Network office in the historically black Man-

hattan neighborhood. "This city is going to deal with the blood of Sean Bell."

Sharpton was joined by the family of 23-year-old Sean Bell—a black man—and a friend of Bell who was wounded in the 2006 shooting outside a Queens strip club. Two of the three officers charged were also black.

The rally at Sharpton's office was followed by a 20-block march down Malcolm X Boulevard and then across 125th Street, Harlem's main business thoroughfare, where some bystanders yelled out "Kill the police!"

Fifty of the marchers car-

ried white placards bearing big black numbers for each of the police bullets fired at Bell and his friends.

Sharpton urged people to return for a meeting this coming week "to plan the day that we will close this city down" with the kind of "massive civil disobedience" once led by Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.

"They never accused Sean Bell of doing anything. Then why is he dead?" Sharpton asked, his voice roaring with anger. Authorities "have shown now that they will not hold police accountable. Well, guess what? If you won't, we will!"

Caretakers get hints on handling children seized in Texas

From Amarillo to Houston, children from the polygamist ranch in west Texas are settling into new surroundings, and caretakers are getting cultural pointers on how to deal with them—such as no television, no movies, no radio and nothing red.

"The color 'RED' is not acceptable for clothing," said a memo that the Texas Department of Child Protective Services sent to caretakers for the 462 children seized this month from the Yearning for Zion ranch after a tip about possible abuse.

Members of the Fundamental Church of Jesus Christ of

Latter Day Saints believe red is reserved for Jesus Christ, according to officials in Utah. So workers at the children's shelter in San Antonio spent part of the week taking anything red off the walls and floors.

Another memo from state officials to caretakers describes the children's dietary and clothing needs.

Some officials said they were sensitive to potential culture shock among the children, who led a sheltered life on the ranch near Eldorado.

"Help them with self-esteem, guilty feelings, shame, confu-

sion about mainstream culture, and learning basic decision making skills," said another memo to caretakers.

The last busloads of children from the group left the San Angelo Coliseum on Friday, headed for shelters and group homes around the state. One bus had to stop several times on the way to Brazoria County, south of Houston, because some of the children got motion sickness.

"Some of them probably haven't even ridden in a vehicle before," state trooper Dial King told the Houston Chronicle.

ACROSS THE NATION

Truck's deadly crash into Chicago train station investigated

CHICAGO (AP)—Skid marks, a boarded-up entrance and police tape reminded commuters Saturday of the destruction left by a tractor-trailer that smashed into a crowded train station and killed two pedestrians, as authorities reviewed surveillance footage of the crash. "It definitely makes you cautious," said Tykeysha Vaughn, 22, as she exited the Cermak-Chinatown Red Line station, the site of Friday's accident during the evening rush hour. Meanwhile, the mayor disputed claims by some neighborhood residents that the intersection where the accident occurred, near an expressway exit, was dangerous, with quickly changing stoplights. "It was an accident, just an accident," Mayor Richard Daley said during an appearance at an unrelated event. He commended police, city workers and citizens at the scene who helped pull victims from the rubble.

Fire in Connecticut apartment complex leaves 150 homeless

NORWICH, Conn. (AP)—A fast-moving fire destroyed a large apartment complex early Saturday, and authorities were looking for one person unaccounted for. Authorities have confirmed the locations of all but one of the nearly 150 residents, said Fire Battalion Chief Tracy Montoya. The wreckage was still too hot by late morning to

allow the use of arson dogs or cadaver dogs, Fire Chief Ken Scandariato said. The cause of the fire remained unclear, but officials were treating the blaze as suspicious. The fire was reported at 1:30 a.m. in a 12-building apartment complex with a common roof. Two of the buildings were fully engulfed by the time firefighters arrived and tenants were calling for help, Scandariato said. Firefighters and police officers ran door to door to alert anyone still inside, he said.

Paddleboarders venture out after fatal SoCal shark attack

SOLANA BEACH, Calif. (AP)—A few paddleboarders ignored posted signs warning that a great white shark still could be lurking below the surface Saturday, just a day after a swimmer was killed in a rare attack near San Diego. "It's like going to see 'Jaws'—getting in the water the next day, all you could think about was the music," said Bob Rief, 63, who was teaching a friend how to stand up on a paddleboard. "But if you're afraid of the ocean, you shouldn't be in it." The San Diego-area native was worried that the attack would scare away vacationers or weekend beachgoers and hurt businesses. Solana Beach is 14 miles northwest of San Diego. Despite the summer-like temperatures and cloudless skies that normally lure large crowds, beaches were mostly empty near where triathlete David Martin was killed Friday.

Asia

US Marines deploying in Afghanistan anew

HELMAND PROVINCE, Afghanistan (AP)—U.S. Marines are crossing the sands of southern Afghanistan for the first time in years, providing a boost to a NATO coalition that is growing but still short on manpower.

They hope to retake the 10 percent of Afghanistan the Taliban holds.

Some of the Marines that make up the 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit helped to tame a thriving insurgency in western Iraq. Some 3,500 newly arrived troops hope to move into regions of Afghanistan now controlled by the Taliban.

The Marines are working alongside British forces in Helmand province—the world's largest opium-poppy region and site of the fiercest Taliban resistance over the last two years. The director of U.S. intelligence has said the Taliban controls 10 percent of Afghanistan—much of that in Helmand.

“Our mission is to come here and essentially set the condi-

tions, make Afghanistan a better place, provide some security, allow for the expansion of governance in those same areas,” said Col. Peter Petronzio, the unit's commander.

Thirteen of the 19 Marines in the platoon of 1st Lt. Adam Lynch, 27, served in 2006 and 2007 in Ramadi,

the capital of the Anbar province in western Iraq. The vast region was once al-Qaida in Iraq's stronghold before the militants were pushed out in early 2007.

Lynch expects the Marines, who arrived last month on a seven-month deployment, will help calm Helmand as well.



AP
U.S. Marines from the 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit arrive at a forward operating base in southern Afghanistan Saturday, April 26, 2008. Some 3,500 U.S. Marines arrived in Afghanistan to help NATO's increasingly bloody fight against the Taliban.

Afghan president safe after fleeing gunfire

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—Automatic gunfire broke out at a ceremony in Kabul on Sunday, forcing the Afghan president and other dignitaries to take cover.

A Defense Ministry spokesman said President Hamid Karzai, all Cabinet members and foreign diplomats were safe. Two lawmakers were reported wounded.

A Taliban spokesman quickly claimed responsibility for the attack, saying four militants with suicide vests and guns were nearby.

Hundreds of people fled in chaos as shots rang out. It was unclear where the firing was coming from. A live TV broadcast of the event in Kabul quickly cut.

Karzai was escorted from scene, surrounded by body-

guards, in one of four black Landcruisers.

The gunfire broke out as the national anthem ended at a ceremony to mark the 16th anniversary of the victory over the Soviet invasion, which ended in 1992.

TV footage showed a couple of dignitaries slump in their seats as the shooting began. They appeared to be lawmakers.

Dalai Lama says he's ready for serious talks with China

DHARMSALA, India (AP)—The Dalai Lama said Saturday he welcomed China's offer to hold talks with his envoy but cautioned it would be meaningless to meet if Beijing was not serious about trying to solve the problems that caused recent unrest in Tibet.

But just as it appeared China was reaching out to the Tibetan spiritual leader, Beijing's state media on Saturday blamed him for the deadly violence in the Tibetan capital

that threatens to overshadow this summer's Olympics.

The Dalai Lama, who lives in exile here in this northern Indian town, said the two sides needed to talk seriously about how to resolve the problems that triggered the riots in the Tibetan capital last month.

“We have to explore the causes of the problems and seek solution through talks,” the Tibetan spiritual leader said a day after China said it would meet his envoy.

He said he has yet to receive detailed information about the offer but stressed that talks would be good.

“We need to have serious talks about how to reduce the Tibetan resentment within Tibet,” he said.

“But just mere meeting some of my men in order to show the world that they are having dialogue, then it is meaningless,” the Dalai Lama told reporters here after returning from a two-week trip to the United States.

Olympic torch arrives in South Korea; protests expected

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—The Olympic torch arrived Sunday in South Korea on the latest leg of its world tour, with demonstrators vowing to disrupt its run through the city that hosted the 1988 Summer Games.

The torch relay was to begin later Sunday from a park built for the Seoul Olympics and make a 15-mile journey to City Hall, although organizers

have refused to reveal the exact course because of concern over disruptions.

Some 8,000 riot police were being deployed to guard the flame, along with some 100 officers with marathon-running experience to follow the torch in shifts. Officials say they will arrest anyone who tries to interrupt the relay.

Demonstrations are com-

mon in South Korea and police have long experience corralling large crowds, from the 1980s pro-democracy movement to recent protests against a free-trade agreement with the United States.

Activist groups say they will try to block the torch as a protest against Chinese policies on North Korean refugees and its crackdown in Tibet.

World

Palestinian girl killed in heavy Gaza clashes

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip (AP)—Israeli forces grabbed a Hamas field commander from his Gaza home Saturday, setting off heavy fighting that killed the wanted man's 14-year-old daughter and wounded 10 Palestinians, including seven gunmen.

The battle in the northern Gaza town of Beit Lahiyah pitted Israeli helicopter gunships and tanks against Hamas men with mortars, homemade bombs and automatic rifles.

The fighting illustrated that Egypt's latest attempt to broker a truce between Hamas and Israel remains a long shot at best. Hamas has of-

fered to hold its fire for six months, provided Israel ends its nearly yearlong blockade of Gaza, but Israeli officials have been cool to the idea.

Damascus-based Hamas chief Khaled Mashaal said Saturday that acceptance of a cease-fire would be merely a “tactic” in the group's struggle with the Jewish state.

The target of Saturday's arrest raid was Talat Hassan Marouf, a Hamas field commander in northern Gaza. Hamas did not provide details about Marouf, but as a field commander in the border area with Israel he would presumably be involved in firing rockets at Is-

raeli border communities.

The Israeli military did not publish his name, saying only that troops had seized a wanted militant.

At some point, Israeli forces surrounded Marouf's house, with the family inside, and heavy fighting erupted. The military said troops came under fire from inside the house.

Marouf's 14-year-old daughter Mariam was killed by shrapnel from machine gun fire, said medics at an area hospital, Al Awda. Her mother was injured, along with nine others, seven of them gunmen, said Dr. Moawiyah Hassanain, a senior Palestinian Health Ministry official.

Iraq's Sunni vice president wants return to government

BAGHDAD (AP)—Iraq's Sunni Arab vice president on Saturday called the return of his boycotting political bloc to the Shiite-led Cabinet a priority, saying the government needs to reconcile quickly to “save Iraq.”

Vice President Tariq al-Hashemi's comments were the latest to signal readiness by the main Sunni bloc, the National Accordance Front, to rejoin the government after an absence of nearly nine months.

Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki also said Friday that he expected to present a new Cabinet list “within a few

days”—a step that would be a boost to his government and seen by Washington as a significant step forward.

But while the two sides have said they were prepared to join forces for more than a week, internal power struggles within the National Accordance Front have delayed a formal announcement, according to a Sunni official familiar with the negotiations.

The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the subject, said disagreements were focused on who should hold which posts.

Al-Hashemi has been one of al-Maliki's most bitter critics, accusing him of sectarian favoritism, while the prime minister has complained that the vice president is blocking key legislation.

But al-Hashemi and other Sunni leaders apparently have been swayed by al-Maliki's crackdown against Shiite militias that began late last month and focused on the feared Mahdi Army of anti-U.S. cleric Muqtada al-Sadr. Al-Maliki also has threatened to politically isolate al-Sadr if the Mahdi Army is not disbanded.

WORLD BRIEFS

Richardson says Chavez can help with US hostages in Colombia

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)—Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez is “ready to help re-engage in negotiations” for the release of three American hostages held captive by rebels in Colombia, a visiting U.S. governor said late Saturday. Gov. Bill Richardson, D-N.M., told The Associated Press in a telephone interview that he plans to put forward a proposal for the release of the three U.S. defense contractors in the coming weeks and that Chavez is willing to work with him as a “primary mediator.” The Democratic governor met with Chavez on Saturday night to discuss the issue. The president did not release any statements following the meeting. Earlier Saturday, Chavez remarked that he did not know “if I'm going to be able to continue helping.” “I'm going to listen to him, to see how we could,” he said.

Massive gunbattles break out in Tijuana; 13 dead, 9 wounded

TIJUANA, Mexico (AP)—Massive gunbattles broke out between suspected drug traffickers who fired at each other while speeding down heavily populated streets of this violent border city early Saturday, killing 13 people and wounding nine. All of the dead were believed to be drug traffickers, possibly rival members of

the same cartel who were trying to settle scores, said Rommel Moreno, the attorney general of Baja California state, where Tijuana is located. “Evidently this is a confrontation between gangs,” Moreno told reporters. Eight suspects and one federal police officer were injured in the pre-dawn shootings, none gravely, said Agustin Perez Aguilar, a spokesman for the state public safety department. The suspects are being held on suspicion of weapons possession among other possible charges.

Casablanca mattress factory fire kills as many as 55 workers

CASABLANCA, Morocco (AP)—A fire roared through a mattress factory in a poor section of Casablanca Saturday, killing up to 55 workers and injuring as many as 24 others, Moroccan officials said. The head of the Red Crescent rescue operation said an emergency exit was blocked and firefighters arrived some two hours after the blaze began at about 10 a.m. “I don't think we realized how big the fire was,” the Red Crescent official, Jawad el-Mejdoubi, said in the emergency ward of Ibn Rochd Hospital. “Twisted bodies, faces disfigured by fire.” The fire in an industrial area on the edge of the sprawling city, Morocco's chief port and economic capital, appeared to be the North African kingdom's worst since a blaze killed 50 prisoners in a jail in 2002.

Health & Fitness

Medical marijuana patients face transplant hurdles

By GENE JOHNSON
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

SEATTLE (AP)—Timothy Garon's face and arms are hauntingly skeletal, but the fluid building up in his abdomen makes the 56-year-old musician look eight months pregnant.

His liver, ravaged by hepatitis C, is failing. Without a new one, his doctors tell him, he will be dead in days.

But Garon's been refused a spot on the transplant list, largely because he has used marijuana, even though it was legally approved for medical reasons.

"I'm not angry, I'm not mad, I'm just confused," said Garon, lying in his hospital bed a few minutes after a doctor told him the hospital transplant committee's decision Thursday.

With the scarcity of donated organs, transplant committees like the one at the University of Washington Medical Center use tough standards, including whether the candidate has other serious health problems or is likely to drink or do drugs.

And with cases like Garon's, they also have to consider—as a dozen states now have medical marijuana laws—if using dope with a doctor's blessing should be held against a dying patient in need of a transplant.

Most transplant centers struggle with the how to deal with people who have used

marijuana, said Dr. Robert Sade, director of the Institute of Human Values in Health Care at the Medical University of South Carolina.

"Marijuana, unlike alcohol, has no direct effect on the liver. It is however a concern ... in that it's a potential indicator of an addictive personality," Sade said.

The Virginia-based United Network for Organ Sharing, which oversees the nation's transplant system, leaves it to individual hospitals to develop criteria for transplant candidates.

At some, people who use "illicit substances"—including medical marijuana, even in states that allow it—are automatically rejected. At others, such as the UCLA Medical Center, patients are given a

chance to reapply if they stay clean for six months. Marijuana is illegal under federal law.

Garon believes he got hepatitis by sharing needles with "speed freaks" as a teenager. In recent years, he said, pot has been the only drug he's used. In December, he was arrested for growing marijuana.

Garon, who has been hospitalized or in hospice care for two months straight, said he turned to the university hospital after Seattle's Harborview Medical Center told him he needed six months of abstinence.

The university also denied him, but said it would reconsider if he enrolled in a 60-day drug-

would be such a hurdle if Garon were to need a transplant.

That's typically the case, said Peggy Stewart, a clinical social worker on the liver transplant team at UCLA who has researched the issue. "There needs to be some kind of national eligibility criteria," she said.

The patients "are trusting their

ing at least two patient deaths, in Oregon and California, since the mid-to-late 1990s, when states began adopting medical marijuana laws.

Many doctors agree that using marijuana—smoking it, especially—is out of the question post-transplant.

The drugs patients take to help their bodies accept a new organ increase the risk of aspergillosis, a frequently fatal infection caused by a common mold found in marijuana and tobacco.

But there's little information on whether using marijuana is a problem before the transplant, said Dr. Emily Blumberg, an infectious disease specialist who works with transplant patients at the University of Pennsylvania Hospital.

Further complicating matters, Blumberg said, is that some insurers require proof of abstinence, such as drug tests, before they'll agree to pay for transplants.

Dr. Jorge Reyes, a liver transplant surgeon at the UW Medical Center, said that while medical marijuana use isn't in itself a sign of substance abuse, it must be evaluated in the context of each patient.

"The concern is that patients who have been using it will not be able to stop," Reyes said.

Dale Gieringer, state coordinator for the California chapter of NORML, the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws, scoffed at that notion.

"Everyone agrees that marijuana is the least habit-forming of all the recreational drugs, including alcohol," Gieringer said. "And unlike a lot of prescription medications, it's nontoxic to the liver."

Reyes and other UW officials declined to discuss Garon's case.

But Reyes said that in addition to medical concerns, transplant committees—which often include surgeons, social workers, and nutritionists—must evaluate whether patients have the support and psychiatric health to cope with a complex post-operative regimen for the rest of their lives.

Garon, the lead singer for Nearly Dan, a Steely Dan cover-band, remains charged with manufacturing weed. He insists he was following the state law, which limits patients to a "60-day supply" but doesn't define that amount.

"He's just a fantastic musician, and he's a great guy," said his girlfriend, Leisa Bueno. "I wish there was something we could do legally. ... I'm going to miss him terribly if he passes."



Tim Garon lies in his hospital bed as his girlfriend, Leisa Bueno, leans over to give him a kiss while they wait to hear if he will be put on a transplant list to receive a new liver Thursday, April 24, 2008, in Seattle.

treatment program. This week, at the urging of Garon's lawyer, the university's transplant team reconsidered anyway, but it stuck to its decision.

Dr. Brad Roter, the Seattle physician who authorized Garon's pot use for nausea, abdominal pain and to stimulate his appetite, said he did not know it

physician to do the right thing. The physician prescribes marijuana, they take the marijuana, and they are shocked that this is now the end result," she said.

No one tracks how many patients are denied transplants over medical marijuana use.

Pro-marijuana groups have cited a handful of cases, includ-

Federal panel seeks clearer warnings on Lasik eye surgery

WASHINGTON (AP)—In fury and despair, patients harmed by Lasik eye surgery told federal health advisers Friday of severe eye pain, blurred vision and even a son's suicide. The advisers recommended that the government warn more clearly about the risks of the hugely popular operations.

About 700,000 Americans a year undergo the elective laser surgery. Like golf star and famed Lasik recipient Tiger Woods, they're hoping to throw away their glasses, just as the ads say.

And while the vast majority benefit—most see 20-20 or even better—about one in four people who seek Lasik is not a good candidate. A small fraction, perhaps 1 percent or fewer, suffer serious, life-changing side effects: worse vision, severe dry eye, glare, inability to drive at night.

"Too many Americans have been harmed by this procedure and it's about time this message was heard," David Shell of Washington told the Food and Drug Administration's scientific advisers before their recommendation that the FDA

provide clearer warnings.

Shell held up large photographs that he said depict his blurred world, showing halos around objects and double vision, since his 1998 Lasik.

"I see multiple moons," he said angrily. "Anybody want to have Lasik now?"

Colin Dorrian was in law school when dry eye made his contact lenses so intolerable that he sought Lasik, even though a doctor noted his pupils were pretty large. Both the dry eye and pupil size should have disqualified Dorrian, but he received Lasik anyway—and his father described six years of eye pain and fuzzy vision before the suburban Philadelphia man killed himself last year.

"As soon as my eyes went bad, I fell into a deeper depression than I'd ever experienced, and I couldn't get out," Gerard Dorrian read from his son's suicide note.

Matt Kotsovolos, who worked for the Duke Eye Center when he had a more sophisticated Lasik procedure in 2006, said doctors classify him as a success because he now has 20-20 vision. But he said,



David Shell shows a chart of his vision after having Lasik surgery while speaking at a Food and Drug Administration (FDA) hearing in Gaithersburg, Md., Friday, April 25, 2008, to discuss Lasik surgery.

"For the last two years I have suffered debilitating and unremitting eye pain. ... Patients do not want to continue to exist as helpless victims with no voice."

The sober testimonies illustrated that a decade after Lasik hit the market, there still are questions about just how often patients suffer bad outcomes from the \$2,000-per-eye procedure.

But one thing is clear, said Dr. Jayne Weiss of Detroit's Kresge Eye Institute, who chairs the FDA advisory panel: "This is a referendum on the performance of Lasik by some surgeons who should be doing a better job."

The FDA advisers—a group of mostly glasses-wearing eye doctors—recommended that the agency make more clear the warnings it already provides for would-be Lasik patients:

- Add photographs that illustrate what people suffering certain side effects actually see, such as the glare that can make oncoming headlights a huge "starburst" of light.

- Clarify how often patients suffer different side effects, such as dry eye. Some eye surgeons say 31 percent of Lasik patients have some degree of dry eye before surgery, and it worsens for about 5 percent afterward. Other studies say 48 percent of Lasik recipients suffer some degree of dry eye months later.

- Make more understandable the conditions that should disqualify someone from Lasik, such as large pupils or severe nearsightedness.

- And spell out that anyone

whose nearsightedness is fixed by Lasik is guaranteed to need reading glasses in middle age, something that might not be needed if they skip Lasik.

That's a big reason why Weiss, the glasses-wearing ophthalmologist, won't get Lasik even though she offers it to her patients.

"I can read without my glasses and ... operate without my glasses, and I love that," she said. "The second aspect is I would not tolerate any risk for myself. ... Does that mean Lasik is good or not good? It means Lasik is good but not for everyone."

Lasik is marketed as quick and painless: Doctors cut a flap in the cornea—the eye's clear covering—aim a laser underneath it and zap to reshape the cornea for sharper sight.

The FDA agrees with eye surgeons' studies that only about 5 percent of patients are dissatisfied with Lasik. What's not clear is exactly how many of those suffer lasting severe problems and how many just didn't get quite as clear vision as they had expected.

The most meticulous studies come from the military, where

far less than 1 percent of Lasik recipients suffer serious side effects, said Dr. David Tanzer, the Navy's Medical Corps commander. That research prompted Lasik to be cleared last year both for Navy aviators and NASA astronauts.

"The word from the guys that are out there standing in harm's way, whose lives depend on their ability to see, are asking you to please not take this away," said Lt. Col. Scott Barnes, a cornea specialist at Fort Bragg who described Army troops seeking Lasik after losing their glasses in combat.

No one's actually considering restrictions on Lasik—but the FDA is pairing with eye surgeons to begin a major study next year to better understand who has bad outcomes.

"Millions of patients have benefited" from Lasik, said Dr. Peter McDonnell of Johns Hopkins University, a spokesman for the American Academy of Ophthalmologists. "No matter how uncommon, when complications occur, they can be distressing. ... We're dedicated to doing everything in our power to make the Lasik procedure even better for all our patients."

27th Annual Flame Tree Arts Festival

Photos and Text by
JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ



A child gracefully performs with the members of the Talabwogh Women Stick Dancers during last weekend's 27th Annual Flame Tree Arts Festival held at the Civic Center in Susupe.



Talabwogh Women dancers perform the traditional Carolinian stick dance during last weekend's 27th Annual Flame Tree Arts Festival held at the Civic Center in Susupe.



Guam's Kulu Natibu Dancers entertain the crowd with their powerful performance during last weekend's 27th Annual Flame Tree Arts Festival held at the Civic Center in Susupe.



Guam's award-winning Kulu Natibu Dancers grace the event during last weekend's 27th Annual Flame Tree Arts Festival held at the Civic Center in Susupe.



Kagman Elementary School students perform a traditional dance number during last weekend's 27th Annual Flame Tree Arts Festival held at the Civic Center in Susupe.



A child jumps up and down while performing with the members of the Yapese community during last weekend's 27th Annual Flame Tree Arts Festival held at the Civic Center in Susupe.



Children amazingly look on a Penina Ole Vasa member crawling on a burning torch during their group's dance presentation during last weekend's 27th Annual Flame Tree Arts Festival held at the Civic Center in Susupe.



2008 Miss Marianas Teen first runner-up Ashley Castro performs a traditional Samoan dance presentation with the Taine-Toa group during last weekend's 27th Annual Flame Tree Arts Festival held at the Civic Center in Susupe.



Tinian's Taga Cultural Dancers entertain the crowd during last weekend's 27th Annual Flame Tree Arts Festival held at the Civic Center in Susupe.



Palauan community members graced Micronesia's largest annual arts and culture celebration.



Rep. Ramon Tabuteb helps in carving the traditional Carolinian canoe with Andrew Rapou during last weekend's 27th Annual Flame Tree Arts Festival held at the Civic Center in Susupe.



Coconut husking 1st place winner Vicente Borja husked 10 coconuts in a span of four minutes during last weekend's 27th Annual Flame Tree Arts Festival held at the Civic Center in Susupe.



Barry Wonenberg demonstrates the art of clay pottery during last weekend's 27th Annual Flame Tree Arts Festival held at the Civic Center in Susupe.



Grace Leyarofram, Rose Ilemasaf, and Memorina Letawerbeg demonstrate the art of making a TER or the Micronesian traditional skirt during last weekend's 27th Annual Flame Tree Arts Festival held at the Civic Center in Susupe.



Mariana shows how to weave coconut leaves during last weekend's 27th Annual Flame Tree Arts Festival held at the Civic Center in Susupe.



Ignacio Borja arranges the artifacts inside the Borja family's booth during last weekend's 27th Annual Flame Tree Arts Festival held at the Civic Center in Susupe.



Festival visitors check on the Tinian delegation booth during the event during last weekend's 27th Annual Flame Tree Arts Festival held at the Civic Center in Susupe.



Coconut husking female category 1st place winner Mariana I. Ebilane in action during last weekend's 27th Annual Flame Tree Arts Festival held at the Civic Center in Susupe.



Mariana and Dionisia Taitano and Belinda Olopai demonstrate Carolinian mwar-mwar and bead making during last weekend's 27th Annual Flame Tree Arts Festival held at the Civic Center in Susupe.



Local artist Toki Mojica talks to visitors inside Handmade Marshallese Handicrafts booth during last weekend's 27th Annual Flame Tree Arts Festival held at the Civic Center in Susupe.

Tegan and Sara make on-stage banter a trademark

INDIO, Calif. (AP)—Tegan and Sara, the identical twin powerpop duo, are accustomed to writing intimate, emotional songs about heartbreak. But when performing, for every song like “Back in Your Head,”

there’s a balance of silliness. Between nearly every song played by the singing-songwriting pair, the two casually—often hysterically—banter back and forth in what amounts to indie music’s answer to Laurel and Hardy.

“Sometimes I like it more than music,” said Tegan Quin in an interview backstage at the Coachella Valley Music and Arts Festival.

The 27-year-old Quin sisters and their band played at

Coachella on Friday, their second trip to the annual desert festival. (In 2005, the excitement of playing the festival was greatly diminished because a case of the whooping cough had weakened two band members.)

This time around, Tegan and Sara played a brisk set on the main stage, and while they didn’t take too much time to chat, they still found reason to discuss dreams in which David Bowie appears. They also briefly lamented the poor acts that on Saturday were to play at the same time as Prince (the

festival’s biggest draw).

For Tegan and Sara, who hail from Calgary and released their fifth album (“The Con”) last year, such comic relief is nothing new.

“We got on stage that first time to do a show in front of strangers and we finished a song or Sara screwed up or something, and I made a comment,” recalled Tegan. “The audience laughed and I was like, ‘There you go, buddy! This is our thing.’”

She believes the roots of their routine likely comes from reacting to all the attention they re-

ceived as young twins. But it’s become an integral extension of their open-book ethos.

“It calms the audience down,” said Tegan. “I think it makes them feel like we’re real people, not like a rock show or watching television. We’re really, actually there.”

Said Sara: “You’re up there singing your heart out and sometimes you want people to know you’re not always like that.”

The sisters think they might one day make a mix tape of their best stories and jokes told in concert (they record all their shows).



AP

Searching for an oasis of music in southern California desert, thousands gathered Friday April 25, 2008 for the opening day of the Coachella Valley Music & Arts Festival. Temperatures hovered in the relatively bearable mid-90s as the notoriously hot three-day festival got under way in the desert a few hours drive southeast of Los Angeles. Sisters and bandmates Tegan, right, and Sara Quin pose together backstage during the first day of the Coachella Valley Music and Arts Festival in Indio, Calif., Friday.

\$30M wrongful-death judgment against Robert Blake cut

LOS ANGELES (AP)—An appeals court upheld a verdict finding Robert Blake liable for his wife’s 2001 death but cut the \$30 million jury award in half.

The 2nd District Court of Appeal rejected the actor’s argument of juror misconduct, including complaints that they discussed the O.J. Simpson and

Michael Jackson acquittal cases while considering the amount of damages. The court said the argument intruded on the jurors’ method of reaching a verdict.

The jury’s “references to O.J. Simpson and Michael Jackson as celebrities who purportedly had gotten away with murder or molestation, supporting the need

to ‘send a message’ ... reflected the jurors’ mental processes in that regard,” the panel said.

A criminal court jury acquitted Blake of murder in 2005. Bonny Lee Bakley’s family pursued a wrongful-death lawsuit and Blake was found liable for his wife’s death in November 2005.

Bakley was sitting in Blake’s car in May 2001 when she was shot outside a restaurant where the two had just dined. The “Barretta” actor told police he left her alone to return to the restaurant to retrieve a gun he carried for protection and accidentally left behind.

Blake attorney M. Gerald Schwartzbach said that while some believe celebrities are treated differently in the courts, the ruling shows that sometimes they are treated more harshly.

“There are a lot of folks who can’t accept that he was acquitted of murder,” Schwartzbach said. “They think he got away with murder and they want to exact a price in civil court.”

Although the court filed its ruling as an unpublished opinion, meaning it cannot be cited as legal precedent, Schwartzbach said he would consider an appeal to the California Supreme Court.

Eric Dubin, the attorney for the Bakley family, said he was pleased with the ruling and believes the \$15 million award, with interest, will come to about \$24 million. He said he thinks he can collect, although Blake has declared bankruptcy.

Prince to headline Coachella music festival in California

INDIO, Calif. (AP)—Purple rain was to fall in the desert Saturday night when Prince was scheduled to play his much-anticipated headlining performance at the Coachella Valley Music and Arts Festival.

Prince’s concert, the centerpiece of the festival, was announced only two weeks ago, adding a high dosage of star power to the ninth annual Southern California music festival. The Purple One was easily the most in-demand act to

see among the 125-plus bands playing over the weekend.

Paul Tollett, the founder of Coachella and head of concert promoter Goldenvoice, declined to say how much Prince’s payday for the performance was but said a figure of \$4.8 million that had been reported was incorrect.

Tollett had pursued Prince since the festival’s first edition in 1999. Prince has rarely performed festivals in his career, and Coachella—the unofficial

start to the summer’s festival season—promised to be his most high-profile gig since playing the Super Bowl last year.

Prince was scheduled to take the main stage shortly before 11 p.m. PDT, after performances by Death Cab for Cutie, Kraftwerk and the newly reunited Portishead. Friday night’s shows were headlined by surfer singer-songwriter Jack Johnson. Sunday night’s festivities are to be headlined by Roger Waters.

Judge orders DNA test for child in James Brown estate case

AIKEN, S.C. (AP)—A South Carolina judge has ordered a paternity test for the 6-year-old son of a woman who claims to be James Brown’s widow.

Judge Jack Early said Friday the DNA test on James Brown II should be completed within the next 30 days. Trustees handling the singer’s estate questioned the claims of Tomi Rae Hynie that her son is Brown’s son, attorneys representing Hynie and the child said.

“Clearly, James Brown has held up this child to be his son,” said Peter Shahid, a

court-appointed attorney for James Brown II, adding that the child has received Social Security and insurance benefits since the soul singer’s death. “We have writings that he has signed indicating that this is his son. He talks lovingly of his child. So all indications are this is the son of James Brown.”

Hynie’s attorney Robert Rosen said his client has never objected to a paternity test.

“She’s said that she was in favor and would do the test, provided that the other children

also took the test,” Rosen said. “She didn’t feel like her son should be singled out.”

A motion to test Brown’s adult children was not heard in court Friday. An attorney for Brown’s adult children said he had no comment on the judge’s ruling.

The decision to test the boy is the latest in the long-running fight over Brown’s estate. Brown died in Atlanta on Christmas Day 2006, throwing into turmoil the future of his estate and trust. The total value of his estate is still unclear.

‘Brothers & Sisters,’ ‘Ugly Betty’ win GLAAD awards again

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Two ABC series were in repeats—as winners—at the annual awards honoring good work in media presentations of gays and lesbians.

“Brothers & Sisters” and “Ugly Betty” received awards for outstanding drama and comedy series during the 19th annual Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation Media Awards at the Kodak Theatre on Saturday night.

Both shows, which feature openly gay or transsexual regular characters, received the same

awards last year from GLAAD.

On “Brothers & Sisters,” Matthew Rhys plays Kevin, a lawyer sibling whose dating life is frequently depicted on the drama. “Ugly Betty” features Marc St. James, the flamboyantly gay assistant played by Michael Urie, as well as Alexis Meade, the transsexual editor played by Rebecca Romijn.

Other winners included Bravo’s “Kathy Griffin: My Life on the D-List” for outstanding reality program, Janet Jackson for the Vanguard Award and Rufus

Wainwright for the Stephen F. Kolzak Award, in honor of the late casting director who fought homophobia in the entertainment industry.

According to GLAAD, the awards honor individuals and projects in media for their fair, accurate and inclusive representations of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community and the issues that affect their lives. The awards are split into four ceremonies, held in Los Angeles, New York, Miami and San Francisco in March, April and May.

IN HUMBLE GRATITUDE

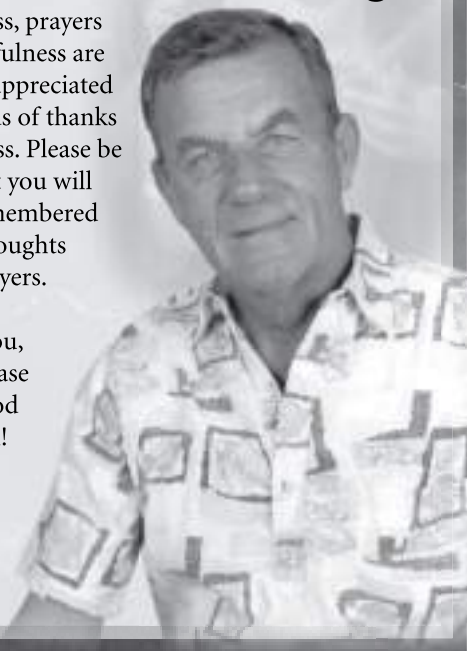
There are no words that can adequately express our sincere gratitude and appreciation to all our relatives and friends for the kind expression to us on the First Death Anniversary of our loved one,

†Herbert William Kluge

Your kindness, prayers and thoughtfulness are more deeply appreciated than any words of thanks can ever express. Please be assured that you will always be remembered in our thoughts and prayers.

Thank You,
Si Yu’us Ma’ase
and May God
Bless Us All!

From
Regina C.
Kluge and
Family



Winehouse cautioned by police over assault

LONDON (AP)—Amy Winehouse left a London police station Saturday after questioning about reports that she scuffled with two men during a raucous night out. She received a formal police caution for assault.

The caution means the 24-year-old soul diva has not been charged, but the incident will remain on the record and could count against her if she is ever charged with a similar offense in future.

Winehouse spent the night at Holborn Police Station in central London after arriving for questioning Friday afternoon.

Police said a 24-year-old woman had been cautioned for common assault. British police do not identify suspects who have not been charged.

A statement released by Winehouse spokesman Chris Goodman said the singer "admitted to a common assault by slapping a man with an open hand and accepted a caution."

"Amy was fully cooperative with inquiries and apologized for the incident," the statement said.

A man was quoted in tabloid newspapers as saying Winehouse hit him when he got in her way while she was playing pool at a bar in the Camden neighborhood of London. He said she also head-butted another man who was trying to hail her a cab in the early hours of Wednesday morning.

Winehouse and her husband, Blake Fielder-Civil, were arrested in the Norwegian city of Bergen in October and held overnight on charges of drug possession. A video of her allegedly smoking crack hit the Internet shortly before she won five Grammys this year for her critically acclaimed album "Back to Black."

She was arrested in London in December on suspicion of attempting to interfere with a court case involving Fielder-Civil, but earlier this year police



British singer Amy Winehouse arrives at a police station in London, Friday April 25, 2008, where she voluntarily appeared to be questioned in connection with an alleged assault that took place in the north London neighborhood of Camden.

said prosecutors were no longer pursuing the matter.

Fielder-Civil is in jail awaiting trial on charges of perverting the course of justice stemming from a case in which he is accused of assaulting a barman.

Winehouse's musical career has flourished despite her erratic

behavior, missed concerts and stints in drug rehab. The Sunday Times newspaper's annual Rich List this week estimated her wealth at \$20 million.

Winehouse's spokesman said the singer was "looking forward to continuing her work on new music in the studio."

Donny and Marie sign for new show on Vegas strip

LAS VEGAS (AP)—Donny and Marie Osmond will perform in a variety show at the Flamingo Las Vegas hotel-casino on the Las Vegas Strip beginning in September.

The brother-sister duo, who starred in the "Donny & Marie" variety show in 1976, will play Tuesday-Saturday shows for 26 weeks spread over eight months at the Flamingo Showroom, a hotel official said Friday.

The 90-minute show, beginning Sept. 9, will be presented by Danny Gans and Chip Lightman of GansLight Entertainment. It is being billed as a greatest-hits multimedia spectacle on a custom stage with

multiple video screens and a cast of dancers.

"My version of a variety show has been what Vegas has known thus far," said Gans, an impressionist and comedian who has long played in Las Vegas. "What we have now is a true variety show which conveys the real essence of America and the country's love of homegrown talent."

Tickets, which are priced at \$85, \$99 and \$115, go on sale Monday.

In the 1970s, Donny and Marie's musical family, The Osmonds, shared the marquee at the old International hotel with Elvis Presley. The International



In this April 11, 2008 file photo Donny and Marie Osmond are shown hosting the 57th Annual Miss USA Pageant in Las Vegas.

is now the Las Vegas Hilton.

"Donny and Marie are timeless entertainers and cultural icons," said Don Marrantino, president of Flamingo Las Vegas. Financial terms of the deal weren't disclosed.

The Flamingo Showroom has been dark most of this month after Toni Braxton was hospitalized April 7 with chest pain.

Braxton's Las Vegas act, "Toni Braxton: Revealed," is in a two-year run that ends in August at the Flamingo. Braxton is due to resume her show May 6 after canceling several shows and taking a previously scheduled two-week break.

Ex-Disney exec Eisner gets Hollywood Walk of Fame star

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Mickey and Minnie Mouse were on



Former Disney CEO Michael Eisner, center, is honored with a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame in Los Angeles Friday, April 25, 2008.

hand Friday when Michael Eisner got a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.

Eisner gained fame in Hollywood as president of Paramount Pictures and then CEO of The Walt Disney Co.

At a ceremony, he credited John Travolta with much of his success.

"I am overwhelmed and I want to thank John Travolta for flying here from a film shoot," Eisner, 66, said. "Anything John was associated with while I was at Paramount was a hit. He is my lucky stone. And my success is also tied to the people I worked with."

Travolta, who starred in Paramount's '70s hits "Grease" and "Saturday Night Fever," said he "jumped at the chance" to honor Eisner.

"I consider it an honor to be a part of this as he has done so much for my career," Travolta gushed.

Kudos from Disney came in the form of the iconic Mickey and Minnie, and an appearance by Disneyland's band.

Eisner became president of Paramount in 1976, ushering in box office smashes, such as "Raiders of the Lost Ark."

He began his career in TV at the American Broadcasting Co. before heading Paramount. He left to take the helm at Disney from 1984 until stepping down in 2005.

Under Eisner's longtime leadership, Disney opened theme parks in Paris, Tokyo and Hong Kong, acquired ABC and Miramax Pictures, developed the Disney Cruise Line and created Walt Disney Theatrical Productions.

However, Disney's board stripped Eisner of his chairmanship. Shareholders rebuked him in 2004 after a revolt led by former board members Roy E. Disney and Stanley Gold.

In 2005, Eisner founded Tornante Co., a private company investing in media and entertainment opportunities. He then created Vuguru, a new media studio. Tornante and Madison Dearborn Partners LLC acquired baseball card and candy maker Topps Co. last October.

Certain death, not freedom, follows the wings of a dove

By **ABIGAIL VAN BUREN**
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



DEAR ABBY: The wedding season is fast approaching, and every year, starry-eyed brides plan to release white doves to "freedom" as part of their wedding celebration.

Abby, when white doves, born and raised in captivity with no clue how to live on their own, are released to "freedom," they face certain death! Have you ever seen white doves flying about, nesting in the wild? No. That's because they cannot survive on their own.

Please spread the word that this awful practice needs to stop. A little education would go a long way.

SOMEONE WHO CARES, ORANGEVALE, CALIF.

Dear Abby

DEAR SOMEONE: Thank you for the heads-up. I discussed your comments with a docent at a local zoo, who explained that not only do doves raised in captivity know nothing about predators, being released into an unknown area disorients the poor creatures. In order to survive, they would have to join with another flock—and spreading their wings brings no guarantee they will be accepted.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: I feel fortunate to be writing this. "Blessed" would be a better word. You see, my family could have been planning my husband's and my funeral today.

We were driving on a busy street when another driver raced out of the post office driveway as we were passing. It happened so fast, we couldn't see who it was—just an object hurtling toward us. Thank God, my husband had sharp enough reflexes to swerve over the double line. Miraculously, no oncoming traffic was approaching. If it had been, we'd have been hit head-on. Had my husband not gotten out of the way, my side of the car would have been hit broadside.

Why in the name of heaven don't people realize that an automobile is a potential weapon? I hope my letter is worth space in your column. Life is fragile. This happened yesterday, and I am ...

STILL SHAKEN IN FORT WORTH

DEAR STILL SHAKEN: Your letter is well worth space in my column. The driver may have been high, angry, sleep-deprived or distracted. Not only could you have been killed, but the person driving that car could have also been severely injured. While cars and bumpers used to be made of sturdy metal, today they are made of plastic. When we start our engines, no one should ever forget that fact.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: My 14-year-old grandson was recently treated to an all-expense-paid vacation to visit his aunt and uncle in Washington, D.C. Because his family is struggling financially, I gave my grandson \$50 to treat his hosts to dinner. He seemed excited about it and readily agreed that he would do it.

I found out inadvertently that he did not use the money as intended, and, in fact, I don't know what he did with it. Should I confront him or let it go, since I know he didn't have much spending money?

GRANDMA ON A LIMITED INCOME

DEAR GRANDMA: To ask your grandson what he did with the money does not need to be "confrontational." Simply tell him that you have learned that he didn't take his aunt and uncle out to dinner as planned. True, he may have spent the money on himself. However, he may have offered and the offer was declined. Give him a chance to explain.

■■■

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

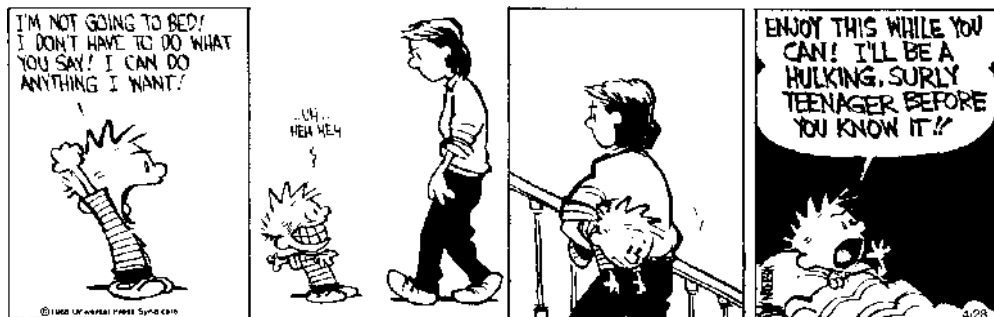
■■■

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more attractive person, order "How to Be Popular." Send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$6 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



Garfield®

By Jim Davis



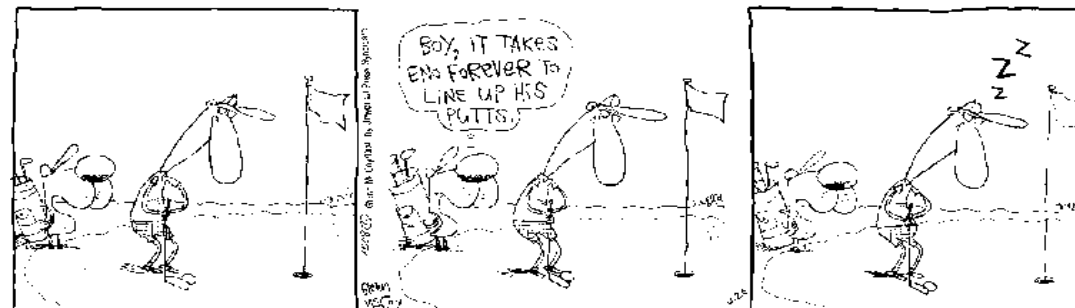
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Pingpong tactic
4 Vacationing
7 Whirled
11 Help a hoodlum
13 Apiece
14 Skin opening
15 Ark-itect
16 Earl Grey for one
17 Egress
18 Rise
20 Burr-Hamilton event
22 Present
24 River mouths
28 Convertible alternative
32 Type of collar thread
33 Lotion additive
34 Japanese pond carp
36 Nothing (Sp.)
37 Beatles drummer
39 Telecast

DOWN

1 "Auld — Syne"
2 Reced instrument
3 Throb
4 Choose
5 Nourish
6 Charlatan
7 Events for
8 Plague
9 Swiss canton
10 Profit
12 USAF air show group
19 Cauldron
21 Moray conger
23 Stir-fry pan
25 Despot
26 "Things I Overheard While Talking to Myself" author
27 Line of fashion?
28 Possesses old-style
29 Vocal range
30 Wander
31 Burst
35 Rage
38 Scepter
40 Out of use, in the dict.
42 Century divisions
45 Vicinity
47 Top of the head
48 Particular
49 Venomous vipers
50 Satchel
51 Raw rock
52 Intention
54 Swabbie's tool

Solution time: 24 mins.

T	W	E	E	D	F	E	A	R	S	
O	R	A	I	I	O	R	I	F	I	S
F	O	R	M	A	L	M	U	H	M	C
F	U	N	A	M	E	S	O	V	A	
A	P	E	R	N	I	N	T	R	A	P
L	L	O	P	S	I	N	G	L	A	K
B	A	N	S	E	X					
S	H	A	L	L	O	T	V	A	E	I
C	A	M	F	E	V	I	M	S	E	A
A	L	E	H	E	C	A	P	G	S	E
N	O	R	M	A	L	D	O	M	P	E
S	E	C	A	N	T	A	N	N	A	L
S	E	D	G	Y	M	E	A	N	S	

Saturday's answer 4-28

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Jessica Alba, 27; Penelope Cruz, 34; Jay Leno, 58; Ann-Margret, 67

Happy Birthday: Don't be too quick to judge others this year. First make sure that you are on the right track. There is plenty of opportunity out there so be creative and you can turn something you like to do into a benefit. This is your year to stabilize your current position and your future. Your numbers are 6, 18, 24, 31, 42, 44

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Don't pass up a chance to help someone out. What you get in return will be an interesting lesson that will help you with future partnerships. Strive for perfection in a timely fashion. ★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Emotional issues will be brought to the surface. Stay calm and use your head and you can sort matters out. Someone you are dealing with will twist things around. Don't give in—state facts and get to the root of the problem. ★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Concentrate on what you can do, not what everyone else is doing. Gossip should be avoided at all costs. Promote your own interests and accomplishments. Criticize someone else and you'll look bad. ★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): You may think that time is running out but you have lots of room to ponder what is important to your future. A great offer may be presented and, if you go over every detail, you won't need to worry. ★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Confusion may set in,

making it difficult to keep things straight. Don't profess to know something if you aren't sure. Emotional matters will make you think about what you should have done to avoid such uncertainties. Whatever you do, don't meddle. ★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Don't waste your time talking when whoever you are trying to convince of something isn't listening. Put your thoughts and efforts into securing your future. A meeting with someone from your past will enlighten you. ★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You will realize that things aren't exactly as they appear. Concentrate on creative projects, children or friends who share common interests. Do things that don't cost too much and put cash away for an unexpected bill or luxury item. ★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Trouble is brewing at home and within partnerships in which you are involved. Listen to whatever complaints are voiced and be prepared to do something quickly to keep the peace. A trip will lead to new ideas. ★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Talking with friends, family, neighbors or even one of your peers will help you get things sorted out concerning a new direction you've been considering. Don't feel forced to oblige someone else if it doesn't work for you. Your knowledge will command prospects of all kinds. ★★

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Something or someone from your child-

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD
IN ASTROLOGY

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hood will remind you of old goals. Don't rule them out if they still interest you. There is progress to be made if you put in the hours and make the calls that can help you get something off the ground. ★★

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Emotions will be hard to control, causing difficulty when trying to find out the truth. Don't rely on what someone tells you—find out first hand before getting upset or jumping to conclusions. ★★

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): So much is happening behind your back. Check out what everyone else is doing if you want to have a clear assessment of a deal, project or personal paperwork. Missing any little detail may cost you later. ★★

Birthday Baby: You are an opportunist, eager to make your way and claim your stake. You are fresh, youthful and know how to charm others with your charismatic approach.

Eugenia's Web sites: astroadvice.com for fun, eugenialast.com for confidential consultations

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

	6		8	1	5		9	
9		1					4	8
	8						5	
5			3		8			6
6				5				9
7			4		9			2
	4						8	
3		2				1		5
	7		1	9	3		2	

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

6	7	1	5	4	2	3	9	8
2	8	3	7	9	1	4	6	5
9	4	5	8	3	6	2	7	1
8	2	4	9	5	7	1	3	6
3	5	7	1	6	8	9	2	4
1	9	6	4	2	3	8	5	7
7	6	8	2	1	9	5	4	3
5	3	2	6	8	4	7	1	9
4	1	9	3	7	5	6	8	2

Difficulty Level ★

4/28

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WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

SEAMAN DAVID G. OUELLET, HERO

Solution: 10 letters

T	F	B	T	R	D	C	T	B	O	S	T	O	N	P
M	R	L	A	N	O	I	S	S	E	R	G	N	O	C
P	A	A	I	L	E	N	V	O	E	U	S	R	E	
R	A	S	D	Z	A	I	O	I	R	N	I	N	D	L
O	W	I	S	I	A	D	P	H	S	H	I	L	A	P
I	A	O	R	A	I	B	E	I	U	I	A	F	U	R
E	R	R	U	O	C	I	E	M	C	V	O	N	Q	U
C	D	E	E	N	L	H	O	T	A	E	I	N	S	P
T	E	C	N	A	D	U	U	N	H	Q	R	N	N	R
E	D	R	U	A	S	E	G	S	U	H	O	R	E	N
D	E	U	J	L	O	U	D	E	E	I	E	V	V	
K	S	I	Y	T	E	F	A	S	T	I	A	A	A	
C	A	T	T	A	B	M	O	C	S	T	R	S	R	
E	V	R	E	S	E	T	A	M	P	I	H	S	B	
N	E	E	N	L	I	S	T	E	D	U	T	I	E	S

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4/28

Actions, Area, Awarded, Blast, Boston, Brave, Compost, Congressional, Division, Duties, Elizabeth, Enlist, Finest, Hear, Honor, June, Massachusetts, Medal, Naval, Neck, Patrol, Posthumously, Protected, Purple, Rank, Recipient, Recruit, River, Safety, Save, Serve, Shipmates, Squadron, Stern, Tradition, Train, Unique, Wounded

Last Saturday's Answer: Coins

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STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-800-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

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WHATZIT Solution:
To few to mention

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

2 DANCER (MW 0052)
Salary:\$3.55-\$3.75/hour. Ben-
efits: Medical & workers com-
pensation. Contact: Pacific
Entertainment dba Club Chicago
@234-7900.

1 WAITRESS/WAITER
(MW 0053)
Salary:\$3.55-\$3.75/hour. Ben-
efits: Medical & workers com-
pensation. Contact: Pacific
Entertainment dba Club Chicago
@234-7900.

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With 2 yrs sales experience.
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235-6100/6695/3714

WHATZIT?
Find the familiar phrase, saying or
name in this arrangement of letters.

FEW MENTION
FEW MENTION

Find today's solution in this section

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

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without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete
7-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as \$25 per
3 liner ad for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto
and more. You can choose from any of below packages that fits
your budget.

ADS (7DAYS)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	\$25
• 5-Liner	\$35
• 3-Liner with picture	\$45
• 5-Liner with picture	\$55

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

All job vacancy announcements will be published for two issues
in each of two successive weeks.

1st position	\$13.00
2nd position	\$5.00
Succeeding positions	\$2.00

These rates apply to all job vacancy announcements on Saipan that
include corresponding benefits and positions that are all under the
same company name and dba.

Newspaper clippings are also available for \$.25 per copy.

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publica-
tion date

Job Vacancy Announcements

Monday Through Friday Issues: All ads placed before 12 noon will
come out the next publication date.

Saturday And Sunday Issues:
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Smith soars over Celtics as Hawks trim series deficit, 2-1

ATLANTA (AP)—Led by high-flying Josh Smith, the Atlanta Hawks finally showed they can beat the Boston Celtics.

Good timing. Smith scored 27 points—and give him a perfect 10 in his own personal dunking contest—to lead the Hawks to a 102-93 victory Saturday night that breathed life into their long-shot playoff hopes, cutting Boston's lead in the opening-round series to 2-1.

Atlanta earned its first playoff win since May 16, 1999, a Game 5 clincher over the Detroit Pistons. The Hawks were swept by New York in the next round, then spent nine long years trying to get back to the postseason.

After getting blown out twice in Boston, Smith and the Hawks seemed to take out all their frustrations on a 66-win Celtics team that finished 29 games ahead of eighth-seeded Atlanta during the regular season. When the buzzer sounded, streamers fell from the ceiling of Philips Arena as if the home team had just won a championship.

The Hawks, who went 37-45 during the regular season, are still huge underdogs. But for one night at least, Smith had the rim rockin' and the sellout crowd of 19,725 on its feet.

Smith, one of the NBA's most athletic players, showed it off with five dunks—none better than the last one. After a Boston turnover, Joe Johnson took off down the right side of the court and passed off to Smith breaking down the other wing. He took off a good 10 feet from the basket and slammed it through over Ray Allen.

With the crowd still buzzing over that one, Smith pulled up behind the arc and hit a 3-pointer that gave the Hawks a 94-79 lead with just under 7 minutes left. He backpedaled all the way down the court, then slapped hands with the playoff-starved Atlanta fans on the baseline.



Atlanta Hawks forward Josh Smith (5) goes up for a shot while Boston Celtics guard Rajon Rondo (9) and forward Paul Pierce (34) watch during the first quarter of Game 3 of the NBA basketball first-round playoff series, Saturday, April 26, 2008, in Atlanta.

Johnson added 23 points and Mike Bibby—who riled up the Boston faithful with his comments about “fair-weather” fans—bounced back from two dismal games by doling out eight assists. Showing much better ball movement and a willingness to run with the Celtics, the Hawks improved from 10 assists in Game 2 to 28 on Saturday.

Smith, Johnson and rookie Al Hor-

ford all had six assists.

Kevin Garnett led Boston with 32 points, but the NBA's youngest playoff team had him kneeling over, looking totally exhausted, by the end of the game.

Lakers 102, Nuggets 84

In Denver, Los Angeles took a 3-0 lead in its first-round series against flus-

tered Denver.

Game 4 is Monday night, and the Nuggets must win to keep the series alive.

Kobe Bryant scored 22 points for the Lakers, who took an 83-64 lead into the fourth quarter and never looked back.

Magic 106, Raptors 94

In Toronto, Rashard Lewis had 27 points and 13 rebounds to lead Orlando to a 3-1 series lead over Toronto.

Lewis went 10-for-19 from the field. The Magic made four 3-pointers in the fourth quarter and finished 11-for-29 from beyond the arc.

Dwight Howard added 19 points and

16 boards for the third-seeded Magic.

The Raptors now face elimination in Game 5 on Monday at Orlando.

Jazz 86, Rockets 82

In Salt Lake City, Deron Williams scored eight of his 17 points in the fourth quarter as Utah beat Houston for a 3-1 series lead.

The Rockets host Game 5 on Tuesday and need a win to keep the series going.

Houston cut a 16-point third quarter deficit to a point and made a great push at the end, scoring two 3-pointers in the final minute to get back within two but could not get closer.

Bobcats fire Vincent after 1 season

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP)—Michael Jordan took a chance on a young, inexperienced coach and it didn't work. Sam Vincent was fired Saturday after one turmoil-filled, non-playoff season running the Charlotte Bobcats.

Vincent's dismissal was only minutes old when speculation turned to whether Jordan, the Bobcats' part-owner with the final say on all basketball decisions, would take a 180-degree turn with his next hire.

Is the old reliable—and temperamental—Larry Brown poised to return to North Carolina, be reunited with his fellow former Tar Heel Jordan, and coach his ninth NBA team?

Neither side was talking. Jordan was unavailable for questions and the team called off a conference call Saturday night.

Brown didn't return phone calls, and his agent refused to discuss the Bobcats opening. But Joe Glass said his 67-year-old client is eager to coach again, after resigning as executive vice president of the Philadelphia 76ers on Thursday.

“Larry is interested in getting back into coaching in the pros or college,” Glass said.

Brown could get a chance to erase memories of his last coaching job, an ugly one season with the New York Knicks that ended in 2006, at the expense of Vincent.

Struggling to find a consistent rotation and clashing with players, Vincent led the Bobcats to a 32-50 record in a season the fourth-year franchise felt confident would end with its first playoff berth.

“The decision to remove Sam as head coach after just one season was difficult, but it was a decision that had to be made because my first obligation is to do what is in the best interest of our team,” Jordan said in a statement.

Reached at his home in Dallas on Saturday night, the 44-year-old Vincent expressed disappointment at being given only one year.

“I can understand why he needs to make a change. I can understand where he's trying to take the team,” Vincent said. “I don't wish them anything but the best. I'm disappointed, but I'm hopeful for them that things will turn around and the Bobcats can be a successful organization.”

When Bernie Bickerstaff stepped down as coach to take a job in the front office at the end of the 2006-07 season, Jordan said he was looking for a young coach in the mold of Avery Johnson of the Dallas Mavericks.

Vincent, a former first-round pick of the Boston Celtics and Jordan's one-time teammate in Chicago, had worked for one year under Johnson in Dallas, his only NBA coaching experience.

Scott holds 3-stroke lead heading into Byron Nelson finale

IRVING, Texas (AP)—Adam Scott figured there was no point wasting his good play to take money from his mates in Australia. So he cut short his trip home to get back on the PGA Tour.

“I came here to get in contention and win a golf tournament,” said Scott, who stayed home only a week after the Masters. “I feel like I've been playing well this year and haven't quite done it. So I'm kind of pushing myself a little bit to do that.”

He only needs one more good round to win the EDS Byron Nelson Championship.

Scott took a three-stroke lead into the final round after a 3-under 67 Saturday got him to 8-under 202. He birdied two of the last three holes, including a 3 1/2-footer at the 429-yard 18th.

“It all depends on Adam,” said Bart Bryant, among the quartet of players three strokes behind. “Obviously, he's a world-class player. He has the potential to go out and kind of run away with it.”

Scott, at No. 10 in the world the highest-ranked player in the field, again topped the leaderboard after his solid fin-

ish Saturday, and Kevin Sutherland's bad one.

Sutherland, whose only PGA Tour victory came six years ago, was at 7 under with a one-stroke lead over Scott until bogeys on the final two holes.

After missing a 7-foot par putt on the 198-yard 17th hole, Sutherland pushed his final tee shot way right into heavy rough—and was still in the rough after his punch shot. He finally got to the front edge of the green and two-putted from 70 feet.

“I have to remember what I did before that,” Sutherland said. “I had a good rhythm going, a good feeling and tried to keep doing that. ... I kind of got away from that maybe at the end.”

Sutherland (67), Bryant (67), Charley Hoffman (68) and Ryan Moore (68) made up the closest group chasing Scott. Sergio Garcia, after a season-best 65, was four strokes back along with Dudley Hart (66) and Jesper Parnevik (68).

While Sutherland was getting spectators moved out of the way for his first

shot out of the rough at 18, Scott missed a chance for a bigger margin when his 9-foot birdie attempt at the 504-yard 15th hole drifted left only inches away from the hole. But Scott didn't wait long for another birdie chance.

Scott missed the fairway on the par-5 16th, layed up into the fairway and put his approach shot inside 6 feet to set up a birdie. After his aggressive birdie attempt at 17 rolled 6 feet past the hole, Scott's approach at 18 was right on the pin.

In his only other Nelson appearance two years ago, Scott shared the lead at the end of each of the first three rounds. A closing 71 left him in third place behind Brett Wetterich and Trevor Immelman, who missed the Nelson cut this year in his first tournament since winning the Masters.

“I've got something to prove,” Scott said, recalling 2006. “I'd like to play how I have the last couple of days, just in a nice rhythm.”

Scott's third round began with his opening tee shot landing in a fairway

bunker, though he saved par with a two-putt from 17 feet before missing a 6-foot-par chance at the 221-yard second hole. There were consecutive birdies before Scott missed the fairway at the 451-yard eighth for a bogey, his last of the day.

“It was a bit of a slow start for me. I never really got going on the front and let everybody catch up,” Scott said. “I knew a solid nine holes would do me good. ... No. 16 and 18 were key. I finished the day with a couple of nice wedge shots, and that makes it a little buffer going into (Sunday).”

Until the end, things were going well for Sutherland.

After his 4-foot birdie at the 174-yard 5th hole, he reached the 542-yard 7th in two shots and had to make only an 8-footer for eagle. He added birdies at Nos. 11 and 13 before the unwanted ending.

“I hit the ball terrific. The first 14 holes, I really didn't miss a shot,” Sutherland said. “It would be a little different if I bogeyed the first two holes and birdied the last two holes obviously. ... Right now, you kind of stew

a little bit on it. But (Sunday), I can't remember it.”

The redone TPC Four Seasons course could play much differently for the final round because of an overnight forecast for inclement weather and more than an inch of rain. Tournament officials will use threesomes Sunday, teeing off from Nos. 1 and 10.

Garcia, the 2004 Nelson champion, had three birdies his first seven holes, starting with an approach to 7 feet on the opening hole. His only bogey came at No. 8, when he had his only three-putt—from 72 feet. He added three more birdies after that.

His best scoring round of the season came despite hitting only two of 14 fairways. Garcia baled himself out of trouble with his short game and his putter, an 8-year-old one he recently pulled out of his old bags. He needed only 27 putts.

“I loved it as soon as I put it down. It just gave me a good vibe,” Garcia said. “It's just that old feeling from years back when you did well and you holed putts and stuff.”

Jake Long, Chris Long, Matt Ryan selected 1-2-3



NEW YORK (AP)—Things were going so normally, so predictably at Saturday's NFL draft. All six players the league invited to the festivities hit the stage in the first half-dozen selections. Yawn. Then came the wake-up call: trade after trade after trade, affecting 14 of the 31 first-round picks. At one point, five of seven selections had been bartered. A little while later, it was another five of six.

Jake Long just sat back and smiled—right from the outset.

The Michigan tackle already had signed with the Miami Dolphins as the top overall choice. He inked a five-year contract worth \$57.75 million, \$30 million of it guaranteed.

"I was a little more relaxed just knowing where I was going and just being here to make it official," Long said. "That solidified it all. It was just breathtaking to walk out there and shake the commissioner's hand and hold up that jersey. It was a dream come true."

Chris Long of Virginia, Matt Ryan of Boston College, Darren McFadden of Arkansas, Glenn Dorsey of national champion LSU and Vernon Gholston of Ohio State didn't have to wait long to walk under the floodlights, either. It was the first time since the NFL began inviting multiple prospects in 1993 and they all went at the very beginning of the proceedings.

So unlike last year, when Notre Dame's Brady Quinn had to wait hours to be chosen.

"It's great to see the green room empty," said defensive end Long, who went second to St. Louis.

"It's a blessing to be here, they only ask six guys to come," DE/LB Gholston added. "Funny how it worked out, teams made good selections."

After St. Louis took the son of Pro Football Hall of Famer Howie Long, Ryan, who could solve the quarterback problems in Atlanta, went to the Falcons.

Following a long-standing tradition, Oakland went for the gamebreaker in running back McFadden, prompting the fans to boo loudly. Many wanted the two-time Heisman Trophy runner-up to fall to the New York Jets at No. 6.

All-American defensive tackle Dorsey was taken fifth overall by the Chiefs. Dorsey patted his heart as he held up a No. 1 Chiefs red jersey that was so small he, frankly, could never fit into it.

"There was a lot of emotion," he said. "I told myself I was not going to cry, but you get the tears start coming and you can't control that."

The Jets wound up with Gholston of Ohio State, who must now learn to play in the 3-4 alignment the team prefers.

"I'm looking forward to going up against Jake Long twice a year," he said of what will be a revival of their Big Ten rivalry.

At the seventh overall spot, the bartering began, and never really stopped. Eight of the next 15 picks were involved in trades.

New Orleans moved up to No. 7 to get defensive tackle Sedrick Ellis of Southern California, who was recruited to the school by the Saints' new defensive line coach, Ed Orgeron. New Orleans gave up the No. 10 overall spot to New England, and its third-round slot, and got a fifth-rounder along with the chance to take Ellis.

Then Jacksonville moved up from 26th overall to eighth, where it grabbed Florida DE Derrick Harvey. The Jaguars gave the Ravens four picks to get to that spot.

Everything moved at a good pace after the NFL cut the first round from 15 minutes per pick to 10. The first round took 3 hours, 30 minutes, a significant improvement over the five-hour marathons of previous years.

The Dolphins used only a few seconds to hand in their card. The Rams and Falcons didn't take much longer, but the Raiders used almost their entire time, as did Kansas City.

Jake Long became the first top overall pick from Michigan since Tom Harmon in 1941. He was accompanied by several family members onstage as he donned a Dolphins hat.

Then came another Long, who proudly held up a Rams jersey and pointed to the fans in the upper deck of the hall. Chris Long is the second straight defensive lineman selected in the opening round by St. Louis, following Nebraska's Adam Carriker last year.

"I knew I was in the running, but all the guys here were great players and they could have chosen anyone," Chris Long said. "It came down to needs."

Ryan has an open course to starting in Atlanta, with Michael Vick in jail on dogfighting charges, and only journeymen Chris

and Denver took Boise State tackle Ryan Clady.

Carolina, looking for a complement to DeAngelo Williams, selected Oregon running back Jonathan Stewart, then dealt with Philadelphia to get Pitt tackle Jeff Otah in the 19th position. The Panthers gave up next year's first-rounder in that trade.

Chicago took Vanderbilt tackle Chris Williams for its spotty offensive line. Chris Long's teammate, guard/tackle Branden Albert, went 15th to Kansas City after the Chiefs traded up with Detroit. Two slots later, tackle Gosder Cherilus of Boston College went to the Lions, prompting some in the audience to chant "FIRE MILLEN" in reference to Lions president Matt Millen.

The first player from the former Division I-AA went 16th when Arizona selected CB Dominique Rodgers-Cromartie of Tennessee State. At No. 18, another small college guy was taken when Baltimore traded up to get quarterback Joe Flacco of Delaware with a pick Houston had owned.



NFL commissioner Roger Goodell, left, poses with Michigan tackle Jake Long, who was selected first overall by the Miami Dolphins in the NFL draft Saturday, April 26, 2008, in New York.

Redman and Joey Harrington to compete with.

"I have to go down and gain the respect of my teammates, do everything I can do to get on the field next year," Ryan said.

Asked about replacing Vick in Atlanta and whether he expected to play or watch as a rookie, Ryan added: "I'll go down there to do all I can to be successful, try to not be distracted, try to win. ... There's not a right or wrong way to do it. I want to get there and learn the offense so I have a chance to play."

McFadden joins a crowded backfield in Oakland, where Justin Fargas recently signed a new contract and Dominic Rhodes and LaMont Jordan are on the roster.

"The time I talked to the Raiders coaching staff, they tell me they're missing a playmaker from their offense," McFadden said. "I feel I can add to that with my big-play ability."

Dorsey will be a building block for the Chiefs, who are revamping their roster this offseason. Gholston could do the same for the Jets, who have lacked a true pass-rushing threat since trading away John Abraham.

Cincinnati took USC linebacker Keith Rivers ninth, then the Patriots selected another linebacker, Jerod Mayo of Tennessee. Buffalo went for Troy CB Leodis McKelvin

After cornerback Aqib Talib, who reportedly tested positive for marijuana while at Kansas, was taken by Tampa Bay, the Falcons moved up to 21st overall. They chose Southern California tackle Sam Baker, son of Arena Football League commissioner David Baker, to help protect Ryan.

Dallas, which came into Saturday with two first-round picks, used No. 22 for McFadden's backfield mate at Arkansas, Felix Jones, who also can return kicks. That began a run on runners, with Illinois' Rashard Mendenhall going to Pittsburgh and speedy Chris Johnson of East Carolina taken by Tennessee at 24.

The Cowboys then traded up three spots with Seattle to get cornerback Mike Jenkins of South Florida, regarded by some as the best defensive back in the draft.

In all, 14 of the 31 first-round selections—New England forfeited its own spot because of the Spygate scandal, but had a pick acquired last year from San Francisco—were involved in trades. The Jets finished off the swapping by moving into Green Bay's No. 30 slot for Purdue tight end Dustin Keller, bringing a chorus of boos.

The Super Bowl champion Giants took Kenny Phillips of Miami with the final pick of the opening round. Phillips was the only safety selected in the round.

Indians get bottom of 9th winner to sink Yankees



CLEVELAND (AP)—Cleveland

scored the winning run in the bottom of the ninth inning to beat the New York Yankees 4-3 on Saturday, giving the Indians their fifth straight win in the American League.

Victor Martinez's bases-loaded single scored Grady Sizemore from third base with one out in the ninth.

Tigers 6, Angels 4

In Detroit, Placido Polanco and Magglio Ordonez each drove in a pair of runs as Detroit beat Los Angeles.

After a dire start to the season, the Tigers are now within three games of the Central Division lead.

Orioles 5, White Sox 1, 1st game White Sox 6, Orioles 5, 2nd game

In Chicago, the home side got a bottom of the ninth winner in the late game to split its double-header against Baltimore.

Brian Anderson hit a bases-loaded single off Randor Bierd to score the winner for the White Sox.

Chicago got out of a one-out bases-loaded jam in the top of the ninth to set the stage for Anderson's winner.

Baltimore captured the opener thanks to pitcher Brian Burres, who allowed just three singles in eight shutout innings.

Rays 2, Red Sox 1

In St. Petersburg, Florida, Tampa Bay edged Boston to establish its first five-game winning streak since 2005.

Akinori Iwamura homered in the eighth inning for the Rays. The two-out, two-run homer was his first this season.

Mariners 5, Athletics 3

In Seattle, Erik Bedard gave up only two hits in 6 2-3 scoreless innings in his return from the disabled list, leading Seattle over Oakland.

Coming back from inflammation in his left hip, Bedard's only mistakes were four walks, a double in the fifth and a single in the seventh. Bedard struck out four and threw just 95 pitches.

Royals 2, Blue Jays 1

In Kansas City, Missouri, the home side inflicted Toronto's sixth straight defeat.

Royals pitcher Luke Hochevar picked up his first big league victory in his third career start and Jose Guillen homered.

Twins 12, Rangers 6

In Arlington, Texas, Minnesota ended a three-game losing streak in style, crushing Texas.

Michael Cuddyer hit a three-

run homer for the Twins.

Dodgers 11, Rockies 3

In Los Angeles, the Dodgers piled on 10 runs in the first inning before easing up to beat the Colorado Rockies.

Matt Kemp hit a grand slam to cap the 10-run onslaught, in a game delayed 18 minutes when plate umpire Kerwin Danley was hit in the jaw by a pitch and driven off the field in an ambulance.

Cardinals 4, Astros 3

In St. Louis, the home side ended Houston's six-game winning streak.

Skip Schumaker singled to left field to score pinch-runner Cesar Izturis in the bottom of the ninth to give the Cardinals victory.

Phillies 8, Pirates 4

In Pittsburgh, Philadelphia downed Pittsburgh to win its third straight.

Ryan Howard homered in his return to the starting lineup as the Phillies scored six times in the first inning.

Mets 4, Braves 3

In New York, the home side inflicted yet another narrow loss on Atlanta, which is 0-8 in games decided by one run.

Carlos Beltran hit a two-run double in the Mets' four-run third inning, as New York corrected a slump in which it had lost five of six.

Cubs 7, Nationals 0

In Washington, Carlos Zambrano pitched five-hit ball over seven innings to steer Chicago over Washington.

Derrek Lee drove in three runs for the Cubs.

Padres 8, Diamondbacks 7, 13 innings

In San Diego, Tadahito Iguchi hit a home run in the 13th inning to lift San Diego over Arizona.

Iguchi connected off Yusei Kikuchi with one out to end the Padres' five-game losing skid.

Brewers 4, Marlins 3

In Milwaukee, Prince Fielder hit a go-ahead solo homer in the eighth and also had an RBI single to power Milwaukee past Florida.

Fielder's fourth home run of the season broke a 3-3 tie in the bottom of the eighth.

Reds 10, Giants 9

In San Francisco, Cincinnati snapped a three-game skid by squeezing past San Francisco.

Paul Bako hit a solo home run and added an RBI single while Brandon Phillips doubled and drove in two runs for the Reds.

Tinian Triathlon set for June 14

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The 9th Annual Tinian Turquoise Blue Triathlon and Reef Swim is set on June 14 on Tinian where a group from Kaike and the KFC Triathlon Club of Japan are expected to participate.

The annual triathlon—supported in part by the Tinian Mayor’s Office, KFC Triath-

lon Club of Japan, Marianas Visitors Authority, and Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino—will have a triathlon and reef swim this year.

The triathlon, which can be done individually or as a team, is broken down into a 1.5-kilometer swim, a 40-km bike and 10-km run while the reef swim is divided into three types, namely: A, B, and C.

The A type is a 1.5-km reef swim with the distance twice doubled for B-type swimmers and type C is three times the original distance. The Tinian Triathlon and Reef Swim starts at 7:30am.

All participants are asked to sign a waiver release form where they need to read and agree on the conditions for the race where they agree not to sue race organizers in case of injuries suffered while

participating in the event.

Last year, former Saipan resident Stuart Smith won the race with a blistering time of two hours, 23 minutes, and 47 seconds while Japan’s Hiromi Sato came in third overall to become the women’s top finisher, 2:36:11.

Registration fee for the solo triathlon is \$80 while for the team each member will pay

Buenafe shines brightest in Rookies’ win over Sophomores

BACOLOD CITY, Philippines—Coca-Cola’s Ronjay Buenafe scored seven of his team’s last 13 points and had a crucial endgame steal that helped the Rookies beat the Sophomores 101-97 in come-from-behind fashion Friday night in the Blitz Game of the 2008 Smart PBA All-Star Week at the West Ngros University Gym here.

Buenafe, who finished with a game-high 25 points which came with an all-time Blitz Game record five steals, five rebounds and one assist was named Most Valuable Player of the Rookies-Sophomores encounter and took home a handsome trophy and P10,000 cash, not to mention leading the

bragging rights against their sophomore rivals.

It was the second straight win of the rookies and levelled their rivalry with the Sophomores at 2-all.

After the Sophomores took the lead for the last time 94-93 with 1:22 left in the game, Coca-Cola’s first pick in the second

round – the 11th overall selection -- in last year’s Draft, had a basket and two free throws in an 8-0 run by the Rookies that all but settled the outcome of the game, 101-94, time down to just 20.4 ticks left.

But Buenafe said anybody could have stepped up on the Rookies team and it just so happened it was him that Friday night. (www.pba.com.ph)

CNMI

From Page 28

but it stuck,” said Newman in between laughs.

Guam had a number of chances to score but Newman prevented them from doing so. She had so many saves in the game that she hasn’t had the time to count them. “I’ve lost track of how many saves and I have no idea.”

In the second half alone, Newman guarded the goal like her life depended on it as she blocked, dove, jumped, kicked, and sacrificed her body in order

to prevent Guam from scoring.

“It was a great game. I feel I was at the right position at the right time. Their shots were coming in pretty hard but I had the confidence of blocking it plus I was also confident with our defense to not let the shots come in so hard,” said Newman.

“Defense helps the goalie look good. [My teammates] did a good job. Luck is also on my side. There are a couple of shots that hit the cross bar and the goal posts and that also helped.”

She said, she was thankful for Asian Football Confederation special instructor Ichiro Fujita’s help before the game. “I do have

my own keeper warm-up routine after each game. I am also thankful for the help of Fujita san as he helped me get my confidence level up.”

Newman said she had no previous experience playing football and only learned the sport in the CNMI. “I first played in the women’s football program in the fall of 2006 and I did not play keeper at that time.”

She said she used to watch her sister play football. “I just used to watch how my sister play.”

Other members of the CNMI women’s team are co-captain Brenda Schultz, Katie Peters, Connie Camacho, Angela Shry-

ack, Patricia Coleman, Elisa Fejeran, Meaghan Hassel-Shearer, Amanda Allen, Natalie Hill, Mary Ana Welch, rancie Sablan, and Jennifer Albers with Nick Swaim as their coach and manager.

Also playing for Guam are Jessamine Christel Cabuhat Mesa, Tanya Joleen Blas-Cruz, Arisha Inohara Recella, Gina Lunn Kasing Naburn, Tiana Jo Piper, Aubrey Nicole Posadas, Amber Lobaton Rabena, Heather Jean Thompson, Shelby Anne Quinanilla Kier, Didre Mare Weakley, Gebra Lynn Kasing Naburn, and Cheri Jo Stewart, who also acted as the coach and manager.

VILLAFRIA

From Page 28

In the shorter course, John Auther won the 8-and-under division with a time of 9:59, while older brother Danny Auther

won the 12-and-under touching the tape at 9:57.

The annual Club Elan 5K Fun Run featured competition in six divisions—men’s and women’s open, men’s and women’s 18-and-under, men’s and women’s 30-39, men’s and women’s 40-

49, men’s and women’s 50-and-over, and kids 12-and-under, and kids 8-and-under.

A banquet was held after the early morning race at the poolside of the Hyatt Regency Saipan where special prizes and other in-kind giveaways were

given to the winners.

All participants of the fun run also received an event T-shirt, full usage of Club Elan (main pool, locker rooms, spa area, towels, etc.) for the day and after the event, and ticket to the awards banquet held in the evening.

ACHAS

From Page 28

a 21-18 win.

In the men’s B division, Joseph Santos and Alvin Alvarez won by walkover against Eric Peña and Jonathan Perez. Santos and Alvarez, earlier, lost by default against Ariel Mariano and Sherwon Samson, who also won by walkover against Peña and Perez.

Robert Reyes and Gerry Balarao eked out a 32-30 win over Saul Gargallo and Roger Vales. Gargallo and Vales rebounded with a 31-28 triumph over June Pineda and Jojo Savellano, who earlier scored

a 31-28 decision against Reyes and Balarao.

In the women’s B class, Shirley Kim and Malou Malasarte pulled off a thrilling 32-30 victory over sisters Lani Bartolome and Lot Abuel, who also suffered a 31-23 beating from Loida Ito and Babes Cielo.

The Ito-Cielo tandem are slowly knowing each other’s games as they scored their third straight win with a 31-28 decision against Kim and Malasarte.

Elma Labuson and Janice Bungalos bounced back from a dismal performance in their last game and cruised to a 31-15 win over Janis Parcon and Juliet Ramos, who also suffered a 31-22 beating from Merlie Savellano

and Cammille Samonte.

In the men’s C, Obeth Aguilar and Sherwin Pusillos settled their score against Paul Navarro and Efen Cacdac with a hard-earned 21-19, 19-21, 21-13 win.

Aguilar and Pusillos made it two in a row on Saturday when they overcame a first loss and pulled off a 17-21, 21-15, 21-10 win over Rick Brien and Cris Hilario.

Angelie Ito and Ana Rose Omori also remain undefeated in the women’s C division after a 21-13, 21-11 triumph over Irene Santiago and Aneth Ta. Lherie Galvan and Lucelle Lampera added to Santiago and Ta’s woes when they scored a 21-19, 21-9 decision.

ANGAN

From Page 28

Boom, and Fatingali coasted to consecutive three-game sweeps of their opponents.

15 Of Fame brushed aside MHS Young Gunz, 11-5, 11-3, 13-11, while 670 Boom Boom

blanked Snap Crackle Pop, 11-9, 11-6, 11-8, and Fatingali scored an 11-8, 11-5, 12-10 decision against Gigi.

Games tomorrow will have Tsunami battling Brabu in the 5:30pm first game, while 15 Of Fame clashes with Angan in the second game and 670 Boom Boom collides with Herbalizers

at 7:30pm.

The final match will feature Spike’A’Sauras against Fatingali at 8:30pm with the latter gunning for their fourth straight win.

Last year, top seed Limarh completed its amazing one-loss season when they scored a 15-7 win over the Sand Smackers to win the title. They finished with

a 10-1 card tallying 346 points while limiting their opponents to 225 and winning 27 sets in the three-month long tournament.

For more information, call PIC entertainment manager John Waechter at PIC at 234-7976 ext. 5147 from Mondays to Fridays from 8am to 5pm or email him at sportsmanager@picsaipan.com.

\$60, which is the same amount for the reef swim. Payments are accepted on cash basis only and the final day of payment can be made on Tinian on June 13.

The entrance fee includes an event T-shirt, swim cap, and dinner for the awards party at 6p, at the Taga Beach. The final day of registration will be on June 13 from 5pm to 8pm at the poolside of the Tinian Dynasty.

A pre-race briefing will also be held on June 13 from 6pm to 7pm also at the poolside.

For more information, contact MVA Saipan’s Frank Tudela at 670-664-3200 or ftudela@mymarianas.com or MVA Tinian’s Benedicta Borja at 670-433-9365 or Kiyokazu Onishi of KFC Triathlon Club Japan at 81-428-31-4911 or kfc-onishi@gem.hi-ho.ne.jp.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES				
MLB STANDINGS				
AMERICAN LEAGUE East Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Baltimore	14	10	.583	—
Boston	15	11	.577	—
Tampa Bay	13	11	.542	1
New York	12	13	.480	2 1/2
Toronto	10	15	.400	4 1/2
Central Division				
Chicago	13	10	.565	—
Cleveland	12	12	.500	1 1/2
Kansas City	11	13	.458	2 1/2
Minnesota	11	13	.458	2 1/2
Detroit	11	14	.440	3
West Division				
Los Angeles	15	10	.600	—
Oakland	15	10	.600	—
Seattle	12	13	.480	3
Texas	8	17	.320	7
NATIONAL LEAGUE East Division				
Florida	14	10	.583	—
Philadelphia	14	11	.560	1/2
New York	12	11	.522	1 1/2
Atlanta	12	12	.500	2
Washington	8	17	.320	6 1/2
Central Division				
Chicago	16	8	.667	—
St. Louis	15	10	.600	1 1/2
Milwaukee	14	10	.583	2
Houston	12	13	.480	4 1/2
Cincinnati	10	15	.400	6 1/2
Pittsburgh	9	15	.375	7
West Division				
Arizona	17	7	.708	—
Los Angeles	11	13	.458	6
San Francisco	11	14	.440	6 1/2
Colorado	10	14	.417	7
San Diego	10	15	.400	7 1/2
Yesterday's Games				
Baltimore 5, Chicago White Sox 1st game				
Chicago White Sox 6, Baltimore 5nd game				
Detroit 6, L.A. Angels 4				
Cleveland 4, N.Y. Yankees 3				
Tampa Bay 2, Boston 1				
Kansas City 2, Toronto 1				
Minnesota 12, Texas 6				
Seattle 5, Oakland 3				
Saturday's Games				
N.Y. Mets 4, Atlanta 3				
St. Louis 4, Houston 3				
San Diego 8, Arizona 7, 13 innings				
Milwaukee 4, Florida 3				
Philadelphia 8, Pittsburgh 4				
Chicago Cubs 7, Washington 0				
Cincinnati 10, San Francisco 9				
L.A. Dodgers 11, Colorado 3				
BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS				
BYRON NELSON SCORES				
IRVING, Texas (AP)—Scores after Saturday's third round of the EDS Byron Nelson Championship, a \$6.4 million (£4 million) U.S. PGA Tour event at 7,166-yard, par-70 TPC Four Seasons Resort:				
Third Round				
Adam Scott	68-67-67	202		
Bart Bryant	72-66-67	205		
Kevin Sutherland	68-70-67	205		
Charley Hoffman	69-68-68	205		
Ryan Moore	67-70-68	205		
Sergio Garcia	71-70-65	206		
Dudley Hart	70-70-66	206		
Jesper Parnevik	68-70-68	206		
Brian Gay	72-67-68	207		
Luke Donald	72-68-68	208		
Ken Duke	70-70-68	208		
Kenny Perry	72-67-69	208		
Mathew Goggjin	67-69-72	208		
LOCAL SCORES				
NMIVA Standings				
	W	L	PF	PA SW
Kiss My Pass	3	0	112	81 8
Fatingali	3	0	96	85 8
MHS Peers	3	0	81	71 6
Angan	3	0	76	81 6
15 Of Fame	2	1	92	62 7
Spike'A'Sauras	2	1	77	80 4
670 Boom Boom	2	1	85	68 6
Gigi	2	2	101	118 4
Snap Crackle Pop	1	2	81	74 3
Tsunami	1	2	54	89 2
Spiked Punch	1	2	70	73 4
MHS Okies	1	3	108	96 6
Herbalizers	0	3	76	90 2
Brabu	0	3	73	75 3
MHS Young Gunz	0	4	72	96 3
PF-Points scored by team				
PA-Points scored against team				
SW-Sets won				

2nd Annual Marianas Cup

Photos By
JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ



Players from the CNMI and Guam pose with officials from the Northern Mariana Islands Football Association, Guam Football Association, and East Asian Football Federation prior to the start of the 2ND Annual Marianas Cup last Saturday at the Civic Center Field inside the Oleai Sports Complex.



The CNMI's Zoe Jewell, back, tries to get the ball from Victoria Jadine Paulino Shimizu of Guam.



Guam's Tanya Joleen Blas-Cruz (2) tries to control the ball against the defense of the CNMI's Brenda Schultz.



Brenda Schultz, center, tries to control the ball amidst the defense of Tanya Joleen Blas-Cruz.



Guam's Victoria Jadine Paulino (10) collides with Lindsey Davis of the CNMI as they battle for ball possession.



CNMI captain Emily Gries (10) eyes the ball together with Guam's Haldre Star Rogers (15) and Simone Nichole Willter.



The CNMI's Meaghan Hassel-Shearer, left, and Brenda Schultz (9) pressure Guam's Anjelica Claire Unpingco Perez as Kyung Hi Quan looks on.



CNMI co-captain Brenda Schultz, second right, defends Guam's Anjelica Claire Unpingco Perez (8) as Kyung Hi Quan (6) and Simone Nichole Willter (9) looks on.



Lindsay Davis (3) blocks the way of Gina Lynn Kasing Naburn.



Patricia Coleman of the CNMI, center, tries to stop Guam captain Kyung Hi Quan (6) from passing the ball to Simone Nichole Willter.



Jake Long, Chris Long, Matt Ryan selected 1-2-3

Things were going so normally, so predictably at Saturday's NFL draft. All six players the league invited to the festivities hit the stage in the first half-dozen selections. Yawn.

25

Saipan Tribune Sports

Smith soars over Celtics as Hawks trim series deficit, 2-1

Led by high-flying Josh Smith, the Atlanta Hawks finally showed they can beat the Boston Celtics. Good timing. Smith scored 27 points—and give him a perfect 10 in his own personal dunking contest.

24



28 MONDAY, APRIL 28, 2008

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

CNMI women draw with Guam

By JON PEREZ

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REPORTER

The CNMI Women's National Football Team stood their ground against Guam as they held their southern neighbor to a scoreless draw in last Saturday's Marianas Cup at the Oleai Field inside the Oleai Sports Complex.

The scoreless draw is a far improvement from the humiliating 0-7 thrashing they suffered from Guam last year.

The CNMI Men's National Team, meanwhile, dropped a 2-3 loss to the visiting Guam national team at the Oleai pitch yesterday afternoon.

The women's game last Saturday was a defensive battle from the start as both teams battled for every ball possession and neither of them giving each other a space to break away and score.

Special mention should be given to goalkeeper Rebecca



Newman, left back Madison Smith, center midfielders Emily Gries and Zoe Jewell, and midfielders Lindsey Sosovec and Lindsay Davis who hounded Guam's scorers all throughout.

Smith, Gries, Jewell, and Sosovec kept the pressure out of Newman as they helped their keeper out of harm's way by either stealing the ball or kicking it out of bounds from Guam's Simone Nichole Willter, An-

jelica Claire Ungpingco Perez Victora Jadine Pauline Shimizu, Haldre Star Rogers, and captain Kyung Hi Quan.

Newman, who even won the best keeper title in a Futsal tournament in Guam early this year, lived up to her "The Wall" moniker when she foiled numerous attempts to score by Perez, Willter, and Shimizu.

"Don't know who started that nickname, I have no idea who gave me that name 'The Wall'."

See CNMI on Page 26



CNMI goalie Becca Newman, center, picks up the ball as teammates from left, Zoe Jewell, Katie Peters, Jennifer Albers, and Meaghan Hassel-Shearer walk off the field in their game against Guam in the 2nd Annual Marianas Cup last Saturday at the Civic Center Field inside the Oleai Sports Complex.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Villafria, Carey top Club Elan 5k run

By JON PEREZ

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REPORTER



Veteran runner Ronald Villafria and bubbly triathlete Mieko Carey topped the annual Club Elan 5K Fun Run in record-breaking fashion last Saturday at American Memorial Park.

Villafria, who was part of a relay team that swept this year's XTERRA and Tagaman triathlons, broke the 21 minutes and 10 seconds recorded last year by Cooper Schraudenbach by posting a best time of 18:59.

He was almost a full minute ahead of rising long-distance runner Matt Mancao as the 16-year-old placed second with a time of 19:42 while Tom Linden came in third, 19:59.

Carey was the fastest female runner after

touching the tape at 20:53 with Mamiko Oshima coming in at second, 21:37, while the comebacking Noriko Jim placed third at 21:54.

Northern Marianas Athletics athletes Champ Untalan and Jacque Wonenberg were the top male and female 18-and-under runners after registering times of 22:01 and 25:06.

Tamio Nishikido won the male 30-39 division with a time of 20:41, while Sandra Um duplicated his feat in the women's division after clocking in at 25:28.

The husband-and-wife tandem of John Douglas and Dawn Hammermeister were the top pair in the 40-49 age group with times of 20:39 and 27:24, while Fred Camacho and Suzy Kindel were the first male and female runners in the 50-and-over class with times of 23:14 and 25:28, respectively.

See VILLAFRIA on Page 26



Villafria

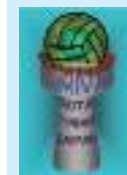


Carey

Angan joins leaders on top

By JON PEREZ

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REPORTER



Angan notched its third straight win Thursday night to join three other teams on top of the leaderboard in the 9th Annual Pacific Islands Club-Miller Lite Spring Co-ed 4-Person Beach Volleyball League at the PIC sand courts.

Angan recovered from being shutout in the first set to score a hard earned 0-11, 11-7, 11-9 win over the youthful MHS Okies.

The win improved Angan's record to 3-0 as they joined Kiss My Pass, Fatingali, and MHS Peers as the remaining unbeaten teams in the two-month long league.

15OfFame, Spike'A'Sauras and 670 Boom Boom are tied from fifth to seventh place with similar 2-1 slates while Gigi is alone at the eighth spot with an even 2-2 mark.

Snap Crackle Pop, Tsunami and Spiked Punch are tied with identical 1-2 cards while MHS Okies hold a 1-3 slate. Herbalizers and Brabu had yet to win after three games while MHS Young Gunz is still winless after four tries.

15 Of Fame, 670 Boom

See ANGAN on Page 26

Achas-Mendoza undefeated in badminton meet

By JON PEREZ

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REPORTER



The tandem of Ryan Achas and Lito Mendoza remained undefeated after Day 3 of the Inaugural Michelob Ultra Badminton Tournament last Saturday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

The tournament is supported in part by Michelob-MARPAC,



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left, Ryan Achas, Pruwajatan Wijay, Lito Mendoza, and John Nguyen pose for the camera after their men's A division game in the Inaugural Michelob Ultra Badminton Tournament last Saturday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

At Your Service, SaipanCell, JET Holdings, PMIC, Serenity Salon, Elegance Café, NIC, Canton Restaurant, National Office Supply, Makeover Beauty Salon, Megavision, Venus Beauty Salon, Vargas Construction, Esolutions Inc., Philippine Consul General Wilfredo Maximo, and NC Matsumoto.

Achas and Mendoza notched win No. 3 in the men's A division after dealing the pair of Macoi Aguda and Edwin Montoya a 17-21, 17-21 setback.

Unlike their first game, Achas and Mendoza made sure there won't be anymore comebacks from their opponents to force a third set by finishing them off right away.

But Aguda and Montoya did not give up without a fight and

stood their ground against their first round tormentors as Achas and Mendoza were forced to work for their points.

Pruwajatan Wijay and John Nguyen added to Aguda and Montoya's woes when they scored a 21-15, 21-10 win to bounce back from a stinging three-set loss to Achas and Mendoza last April 22.

Achas and Mendoza won the first set but Wijay and Nguyen bounced back in the second set to force a rubber in a Philippines vs South Asia match.

In the end, Achas and Mendoza had enough gas left in their tanks as they hammered Nguyen's backhand side to force Wijay's partner to commit three errors to squeeze out

See ACHAS on Page 26